



THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Dry start, showers later

(1R 45p) 40p



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EDUCATION+ WHEN THE BULLY IS A TEACHER

IN THE TABLOID: CINEMA

KAMA SUTRA BRINGS BAD KARMA

Revealed at last: Why boys will be boys and girls will be girls

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

It's the gene that explains feminine intuition. It's the gene that explains why you can persuade a group of adolescent men to attack a machine-gun emplacement. It's the gene that explains why New Men are made, not born.

Its effects may be subtle, but a team of British scientists is quite certain that they have tracked it down to the X chromosome – one of the two sex chromosomes.

The discovery marks the first time that behavioural differences between sexes have been pinpointed to a single location on one chromosome. Its implications are far-reaching. Professor David Skuse, who led the research at the Institute of Child Health, said: "It may imply that we need to think seriously about providing more structured social education for boys, compared to girls."

He emphasised that the gene is not a "gene for criminality", or for misbehaviour – though it may explain why boys can more easily be persuaded to behave badly; they are less able to see that their behaviour is errant.

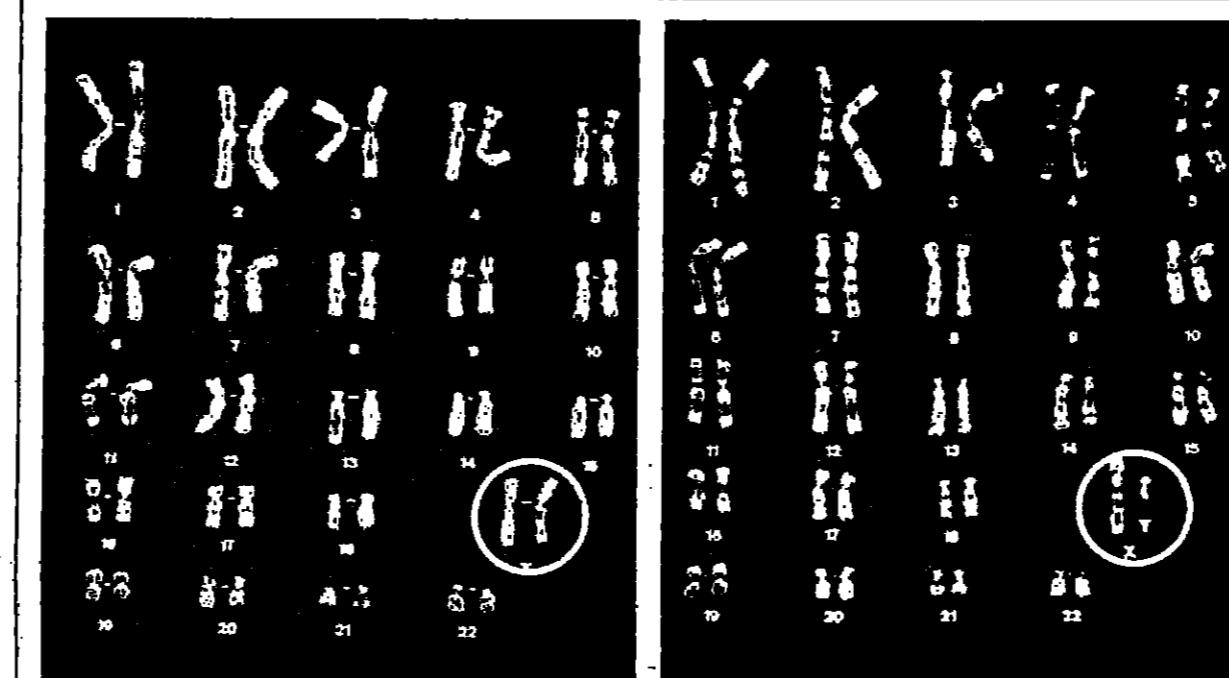
Both men and women have the gene – but it is only "switched on" in women. Its effect is to make them responsive

to others and able to recognise social norms without prompting. "Feminine intuition comes about by observing non-verbal behaviour," said Professor Skuse. "It has a genetic origin. It's nothing to do with hormones. Boys aren't poor at this because of testosterone. It's because of the X chromosome."

Such a definite sexual split in the allocation of a gene would have to have an evolutionary advantage for both genders, according to Professor David Skuse who has led the research

The sexual divide: A definite split in the allocation of a gene would have to have an evolutionary advantage for both genders, according to Professor David Skuse who has led the research

Photograph: Jason Nye



The chromosomes pictured at the left come from a woman – because the sex chromosomes are both Xs (circled). The other set comes from a man, because it includes the X and Y sex genes (circled, right); you must have a Y gene to be male. Though both sex

genes have the "intuition" gene, located somewhere near the centre of the X chromosome, it only functions in women.

Men carry a silent copy of the gene, which they can pass to their daughters – who receive a working version.

The gene was pinpointed by interviewing and testing women with a rare genetic disorder called Turner's Syndrome. They have a single X chromosome, inherited from their mother or father.

Photographs: Science Photo Library

Like all other genes, this one instructs the body to make a single protein, which has not yet been identified. But Professor Skuse doubted that we will ever be able to bottle feminine intuition. The protein seems to affect the brain, probably during the embryo stage.

The conclusions, reported today in the science journal *Nature*, emerged from interviews with parents of children who have a

rare genetic condition known as Turner's Syndrome. Normally, men have an X chromosome (inherited from their mother) and a Y chromosome (from their father); women have two X chromosomes, each inherited from their parents. Turner's Syndrome, which only affects females, is caused by faulty cell division before conception, and leaves them with a single X chromosome rather than two

because the egg or sperm fails to deliver an X chromosome.

Girls with the syndrome are usually of normal intelligence, but they frequently struggle to learn social behaviour such as recognising non-verbal signals.

Psychological tests on 50 girls with this condition found that the effect was more marked in those who had received their single X gene from their mothers. In those whose X gene came

from their father, the lack of social skills was less marked.

This is because of a process called "imprinting": when two copies of a gene are inherited, only one will function. The "intuition" gene is turned off in the father's cells – but turned on, or imprinted, in his sperm. By contrast, the gene is turned off in the mother's eggs – meaning that under normal circumstances a male cannot inherit feminine intuition.

Mr Clarke said in a frantic round of media interviews that the party had to come to its senses and elect him as the man able to confront Labour's overwhelming majority.

He suggested Mr Hague had not yet got the style, personality or views to make him a Conservative prime minister. "William one day could play a leading role," he added.

Mr Clarke's side-swope was as nothing compared to the vituperation of Mr Redwood. "William isn't quite sure whether he wants more European government or less European government. He would like the Europe question to rest there, unanswered, hoping that Europe might go away," he said.

On the single currency, Mr Redwood warned in Churchillian tones: "An ostrich Conservative Party will never fly. It will bury its head in the sand at its peril..."

"The danger of William's position, as I understand it, is that it leaves the question hanging in the air. The answer has to be never to the single currency."

Mr Redwood accepted Tony Blair's election charge that the Tories had lied in the 1992 election, on tax, VAT on fuel, Europe, the NHS and the recession: "In order to win again, we must first re-establish our reputation for telling the truth."

Iain Duncan Smith, the Redwood campaign manager, said: "One of the reasons why we lost the last election is because the public got to believe that people in this party would do anything, say anything, go behind closed doors and stick up anything, to stay with their hands on the lever of power."

He said Mr Redwood's campaign was based on the themes of "Honesty, integrity and decency".

Asked how that distinguished him from his opponents, Mr Redwood deliberately impugned their honesty and integrity, saying to the laughter of his supporters: "I have never said they lack decency..."

Mr Redwood said: "I do not want to split the difference. I want to make the difference. I do not want to stop another candidate. I want to win with a positive programme."

Speaking for the campaign team, Mr Duncan Smith said: "You cannot base the electing of a leader on stopping somebody else."

Referring to the 1990 leadership contest, when some MPs voted for Mr Major to stop Michael Heseltine, Mr Duncan Smith added: "We went through this six or seven years ago. If we are to repeat the process, if we look for a stop-gap rather than a stop somebody, we will end up with nothing."

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Profile of Hague, page 22

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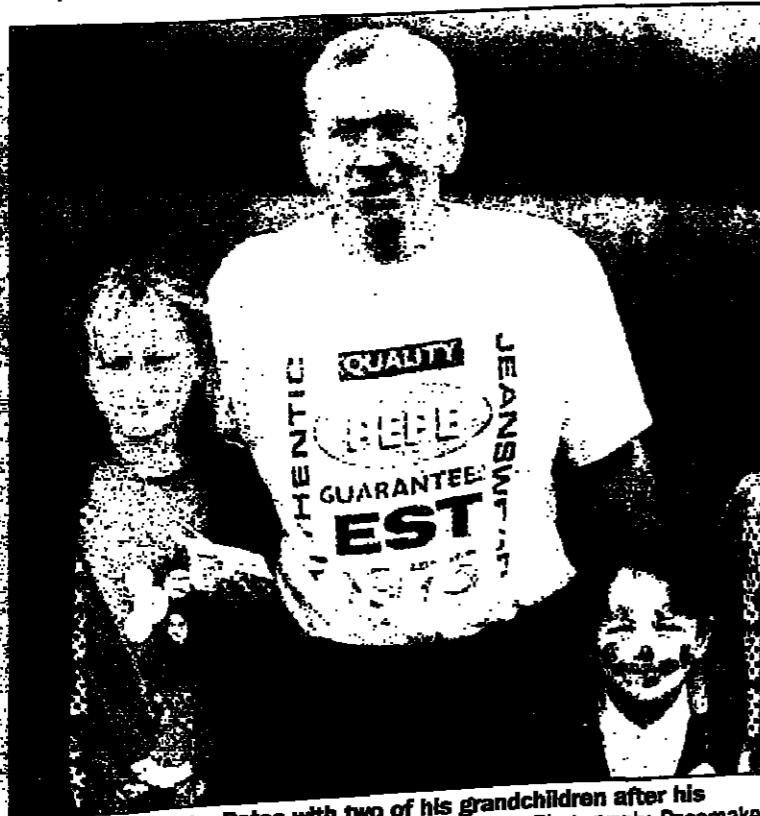


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From killer to victim: Basher's death sums up the futility of the Troubles



David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

Robert "Basher" Bates, who was gunned down in Belfast yesterday, was an icon. To some he represented the very worst that the troubles has produced; to others he was testimony that even the most brutal terrorist might not be beyond redemption.

Two decades ago the 10 murders he was involved in were among the most barbaric ever seen. He shot some of his victims but others he killed in the most cruel fashion, he and his associates wielded butcher's knives, axes and cleavers on random Catholic victims. The Shankill Butchers slaughtered human beings as one would animals.

The horror of those killings took Belfast to a new low. Yesterday his death conjured up the most appalling vista of all: that the IRA was intent on regenerating the troubles. The relief was palpable when it emerged that he had been killed not by the IRA but by a loyalist, in what is thought to have been personal revenge for the murder by Bates of a close relative, 20 years ago in a bar room brawl.

Basher Bates was one of hundreds of convicted killers released after serving an average of 15 years behind bars. There are hundreds of unsettled

personal grudges in Northern Ireland: quite a few people know, or think they know, who killed their fathers or other loved ones. Yet this seems to have been the first personal revenge killing of a released prisoner.

While loyalist groups have accounted for close on 1,000 of the 3,500 victims of the Troubles, the ferocity and awfulness of the Shankill Butchers' killings have remained in the public memory for two full decades.

A book dwelling on the graphic details has been a local bestseller for 20 years, and can still be picked up in many of the garage shops of Belfast. It was, for example, the favourite reading of Thomas Begley, the young IRA man who four years ago carried a bomb into a Shankill Road fish shop, killing himself and nine Protestants.

Bates was not the prime mover in the Shankill Butchers gang; that was UVF man Lennie Murphy, who was shot dead by the IRA in 1982. But he was one of the leading lights during their two-year reign of terror, and one photograph of him, looking like an unshaven, unkempt dullard, has remained lodged in the communal memory as a vision of a psychopathic killer.

The judge who gave him 16 life sentences for his killings told him, correctly, that his actions "will remain for ever a lasting monument to blind sectarian bigotry." When he told him he should remain behind bars for the rest of his natural life, society shuddered and hoped it had heard the last of Basher Bates.

But Northern Ireland has a scheme, not found in the rest of the UK, for the release of even the most notorious killers, and more than 300 loyalists and republicans have been quietly freed over the last decade. Many of these former lifers engross themselves, as Bates seemed to be doing, in community or welfare work.

As the years passed in jail, Bates was at first a difficult prisoner, then a troubled soul and finally a remorseful born-again Christian, praying fervently for forgiveness. One who knew him in prison said of him: "He's now a shell of a man, very quiet and inoffensive in a bland kind of way. The hair has gone, he's prematurely bald. He has found the Lord and he's no threat to anyone."

Basher Bates made a long and painful journey from merciless assassin to man of God. His personal odyssey seemed to be over: neither he nor anyone else could have foreseen the fatal circularity which in the end transformed him from killer to victim.

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QUICKLY

Memorial in doubt
British artist Rachel Whiteread disclosed that the holocaust memorial she designed for Vienna may never be installed because of political infighting. Page 7

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news

significant shorts

Baccalaureate-style studies for sixth-formers

The Government yesterday left the way open for reform of the sixth form curriculum as it announced plans to defer changes to A-levels and vocational courses, and develop a single umbrella certificate.

Though government sources are playing down the delay, the proposed "overarching certificate" for young people, encompassing academic or vocational subjects and key skills indicates ministers are prepared to go further than their Conservative predecessors in overhauling post-16 qualifications.

The plans could include a version of the French baccalaureate, which would require sixth-form pupils to take a range of subjects including arts and sciences.

Lucy Ward

Rerendum Party cannot claim libel

A judge ruled yesterday that Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party could not bring an action for libel.

Allowing political parties to sue for defamation would impose an undesirable fetter on free speech in a democratic society and was against the public interest, Mr Justice Buckley ruled.

Sir James and the party had complained in writs about a report headed "Goldsmith looks for dignified exit from election race" in *Sunday Business* on 23 March. The judge gave leave to appeal.

Patricia Wynn Davies

Surrogacy expenses to be capped

Expenses paid to surrogate mothers could be capped following an independent review of surrogacy law announced by the Government yesterday.

Tessa Jowell (left), the health minister, said that a team of three experts will investigate whether a body should be set up to regulate the arrangements made by childless couples to women who agree to bear children for them.

Surrogacy must not be commercialised and a surrogate mother cannot be forced to give up her baby if she changes her mind. Parents are allowed to pay surrogate mothers or give them expenses but it is illegal for a third party to profit from a surrogacy arrangement.

Glenda Cooper

Serial rapist struck across Britain

A serial rapist who has terrorised women in the North of England and the Midlands might be responsible for a string of attacks throughout Britain.

Up to 25 new victims of the sex attacker, who has been positively linked with at least five crimes in 13 years, have come forward after an appeal on BBC1's *Crimewatch UK* on Tuesday.

The publicity prompted more than 1,000 calls, at least half of which named possible suspects. Another 25 were from women who thought they may have been victims of the man. Calls from Scotland, Ireland, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Hampshire are among those to be investigated, as well as from West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire – the three counties where the rapist is known to have struck before.

Inmates board prison ship

The first inmates were safely loaded aboard a controversial new prison ship yesterday. From early morning the men, all low security category D inmates, were taken by buses to Weymouth in Dorset from neighbouring jails. Twenty-one were expected to spend the night moored off the Dorset coast abroad the HMP *Weare*, which is Britain's first prison ship since Victorian times.

Stowaways found on Eurostar

Four stowaways were found hidden under a Eurostar train after surviving the journey under the English Channel from France. They were discovered in an inspection hatch underneath the train, which halted at Ashford, Kent, after passing through the Channel Tunnel. Passengers said they were told the stowaways were Moldovans but their nationality could not be confirmed by police.

Ex-policemen jailed in Cyprus

Two former British policemen were jailed for 18 months yesterday after admitting burglary in an industrial espionage case in Cyprus.

Retired Detective Chief Inspector Michael Flack and ex-Detective Constable Paul Whybrow claimed they were "set up" as they investigated the unlawful copying of patented pharmaceutical products on the island. Both confessed to stealing documents from a customs clearing office in February. Whybrow, 47, and Flack, 52, from Bexley, south-east London, pleaded guilty to a single burglary charge at the criminal court in Limassol.

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BACK ISSUES

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New drama head at BBC

Colin Adams, the BBC's northern broadcasting head, has been picked to fill the long-empty top spot in the BBC's drama department.

Adams, who has been acting as head of the drama department along with director of production Alan Yentob for the last six months, has taken what some in the corporation have described as a poisoned chalice.

The BBC's last head of drama, Charles Denton, quit in May 1996 after overseeing a string of hits such as *Hamish Macbeth* and *Ballykissangel*. However, the failure of expensive serials such as *Rhodes* – which cost £10m to make – *Nostromo* (above) and *Ivanhoe* has put the department under pressure to come up with a hit.

Insiders also say the role of drama head has become less attractive because of director general John Birt's latest restructuring of the BBC into Broadcasting and Production directorates.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC board of governors, pointedly criticised the delay in appointing a drama head and some of the drama department's output in front of journalists earlier this year.

Paul McCann

people



Denise Stacey: Determined to win compensation from employers (Photograph: Keith Doherty)

'Auf Wiedersehen' wife fights for justice for her husband

The wife of a British bricklayer who tumbled to his death from a luxury German apartment block will next week bring an historic criminal prosecution against his employers.

Denise Stacey, a mother of two young children, will fly to Germany to act as joint prosecutor with the Leipzig state prosecutor in bringing a case of negligent manslaughter against British and German construction bosses.

David Carter, a director of David Carter construction Management of Amersham, and two directors of ABN, a firm of German developers, are also charged with endangering the lives of their workers.

Mrs Stacey's husband, Len, died from horrific injuries after falling from the roof of the Leipzig flats, three years ago. There was no scaffolding or netting around the building to break his fall.

Despite intense pressure to let the matter rest, including threats made to her personal safety, Mrs Stacey has been determined to bring her husband before the courts. She said: "I have had to fight tooth and nail. They wanted to cover up my husband's death."

The hearing will be a landmark case in Germany and could open the way for a wider of litigation claims against Germany's booming construction industry.

She has the backing of IGBAU, the German construction union, which believes that many more for-

mer workers have been killed or injured because of lax safety standards. German law allows for victims or their families to act as co-prosecutors in criminal proceedings in exceptional cases.

It was at the height of the last recession that Mr Stacey joined the ranks of British building workers in Germany, adopting the lifestyle depicted in the television drama *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*.

He had been working in Germany for six months when he was knocked from the top of the unfinished building after a pile of concrete blocks fell around him.

At an inquest in Uxbridge, the coroner likened Mr Stacey's injuries to that of a plane crash victim. The coroner said that Mr Stacey would have survived if the building had had safety rails.

The case opens on Tuesday at the Ellenburg criminal court, near Leipzig. One of the witnesses will be Leonard Johnson, a Kent construction worker, who was opening a pallet of concrete blocks when it accidentally collapsed. Blocks fell onto Mr Stacey, who was kneeling down, and he was knocked from the side of the building.

The building firms have strenuously denied liability. In a statement to the German authorities, Mr Carter said that the workers were independent tradesmen and were responsible for their own safety.

Ian Burrell

Divorce settled – after 30 years

A woman accused by her ex-husband of bringing "nothing into the marriage except twelve packets of crisps and four pounds one shilling and sixpence" was yesterday told she was entitled to a share of the £250,000 house where they lived – nearly 30 years after they divorced.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Ward, and Lord Justice Millett were told in the Court of Appeal that all Patricia Hill received in settlement after the divorce in 1969 was a maintenance order for their two sons, £75 in cash and a second-hand Mini.

The judges decided that she could make claims for a lump sum payment and share of the house after hearing that the couple had cohabited for 25 years after the divorce, before finally splitting when John Hill went off with her best friend.

Mr Hill, was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Mrs Hill agreed with her former husband that she did not bring much money into the marriage but said she also had "a packet of Ritz biscuits and half a pound of margarine".

briefing

ASTRONOMY

Earth followed through space by asteroid

As it orbits the sun, the Earth is being preceded through space by an asteroid the size of Islington – though scientists are confident there is no risk of it crashing into us.

Known simply as 3753, the asteroid is about 5km (3.1 miles) across, and on an orbit inclined at 20 degrees to that of the sun and planets. It was discovered a decade ago, but scientists have now worked out that its orbit is locked to the Earth's. As it moves ahead of us, its path relative to the Earth looks like a kidney bean, so that it actually takes 150 years to return to exactly the same point in space. The closest approach to Earth happens every 385 years, when it is 40 times further away than the Moon.

"This behaviour is not unusual in itself," say the researchers, led by Paul Weigert at York University in Ontario, Canada, in the science journal *Nature*. "What distinguishes 3753 from other near-Earth asteroids is its behaviour as it approaches Earth: our planet's gravitational pull acts to increase the asteroid's period from slightly below to slightly above one year."

The effect of that slowing effect on the asteroid's path is also to keep us alive: our planet's gravitational pull makes the asteroid begin to fall behind the Earth's orbit, and it therefore moves away from Earth, avoiding a collision.

Charles Arthur

HOUSING

Property prices heading for boom

House prices climbed by more than 8 per cent in a year, though this rise disguised wide regional variations, according to official figures issued by the Land Registry yesterday. London notched up the sharpest increases, but Leicestershire, Dorset and Northumberland were among the few house price winners.

The figures for England and Wales compared the period January to March 1997 with the same three-month period last year. The average house price is £27,900 – up 8.6 per cent on the January to March 1996 figure of £27,097.



ECONOMY

Regional earnings divide persists

The rich regions got richer and the poor ones poorer in 1995, according to the latest regional breakdown published by the Office for National Statistics.

Income per head in London was 25 per cent above the UK average, and 15 per cent above average in the rest of the south-east – both higher than two years earlier. By contrast, incomes in the north-east slipped to 85 per cent of the national average, and in Wales to 84 per cent. Northern Ireland, however, overtook the north-east, with incomes climbing from 86.4 per cent to 87.4 per cent of the average.

Social security benefits accounted for a bigger share of peoples' incomes in Wales than in any other region, making up a fifth of total income per head. At the other extreme, benefits made up only 11 per cent of south-easterners' incomes.

Diane Coyle

HEALTH

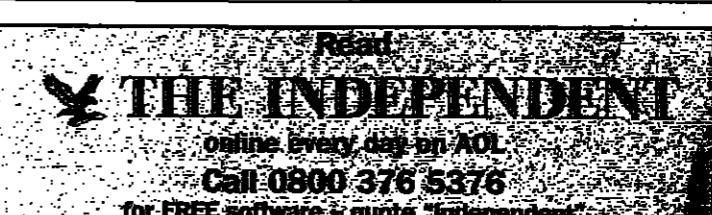
HRT reduces risk of cataracts

Hormone replacement therapy for post-menopausal women may benefit the eyes as well as preventing brittle bones, researchers said yesterday. A study in Spain found a reduced incidence of lens opacity, a precursor of age-related cataract, in post-menopausal women taking oestrogen.

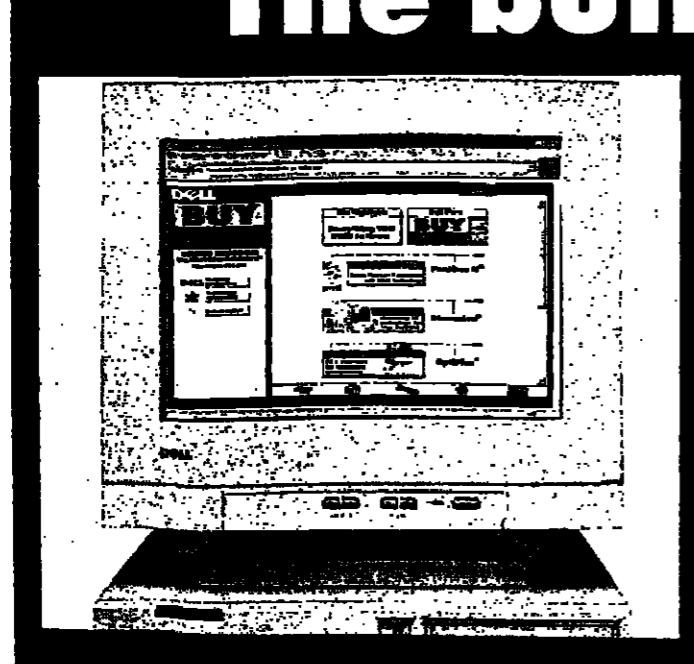
Cataracts, which cause cloudiness and hardening of the lens of the eye, are a leading cause of blindness and affect 90 per cent of people aged over 75. Scientists have long suspected that female hormones may play a role in the development of age-related cataracts, since more women suffer from them than men.

Scientists from the Ramon y Cajal Institute in Madrid examined the eyes of 19 post-menopausal women taking oestrogen, 23 post-menopausal women not taking oestrogen, and 23 men.

The researchers, whose findings were published in the American journal *Ophthalmology*, found that the women taking oestrogen had significantly less lens opacity compared with the other groups.

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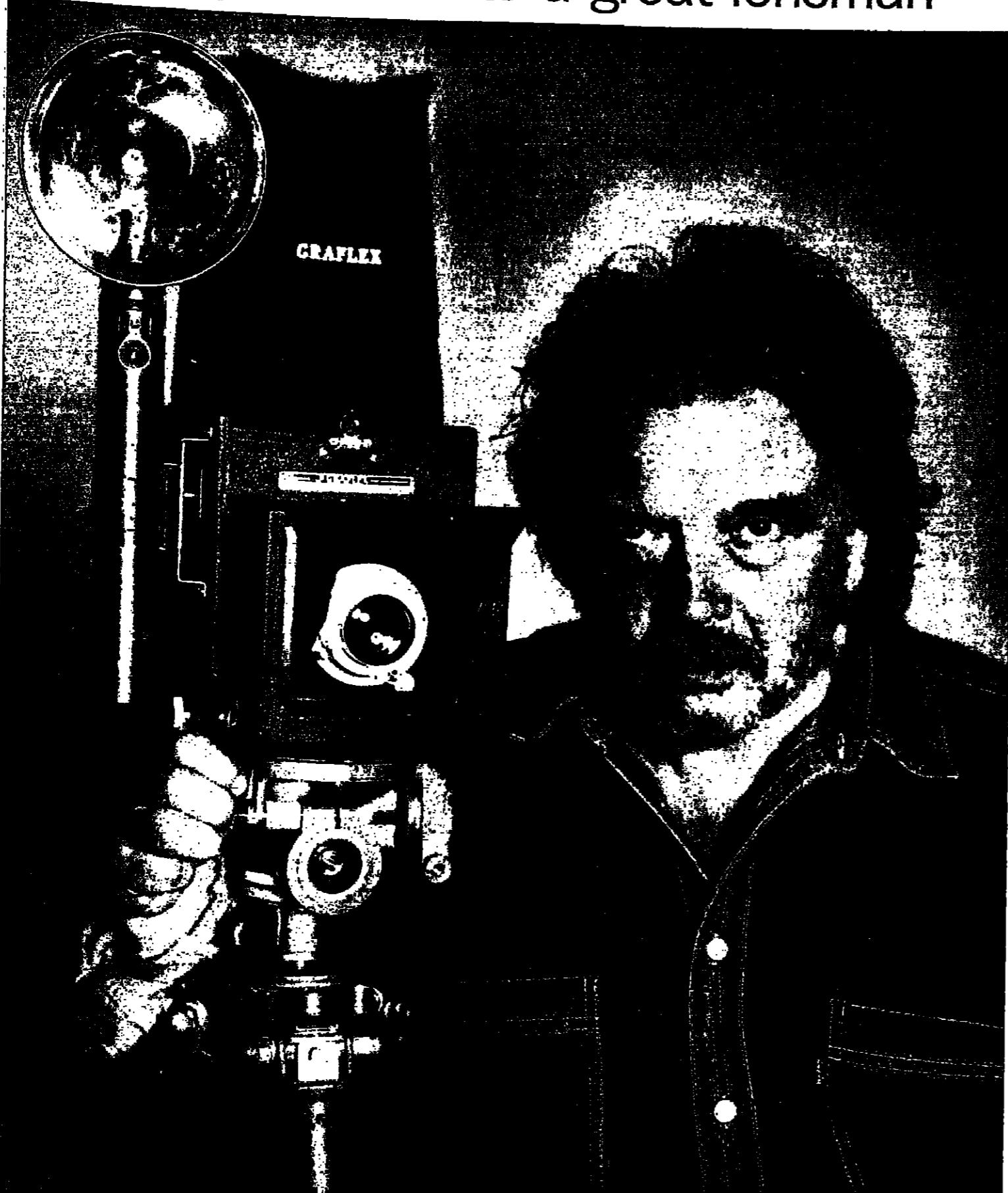
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Bailey's tribute to a great lensman



Lens to remember: The photographer David Bailey with a Graflex SLR, one of the cameras of his friend the late Terence Donovan. The camera, estimate £120-180, will be auctioned with the rest of Donovan's cameras today at Christie's South Kensington. Photograph: Nick Clark

Briton escapes draft into Foreign Legion

James Mellor

The young Briton, seized at the Channel Tunnel terminal at Folkestone by French immigration officers investigating national service dodging, was released yesterday afternoon.

Henry Tuson was arrested on Tuesday evening and detained at the La Citadelle barracks in Lille, home of the 43rd Infantry Regiment, until a medical deemed him unfit to complete his military service. At the time of his detention he had just 15 pence in his pocket.

According to a French embassy spokesman he was released just after 3pm yesterday.

The 22-year-old technical translator, who works for Euronet, was born in Dunkirk but moved to Britain when only three months old. He lives at present in Herne Bay, Kent and has a British passport as well as dual nationality.

French officials had argued that Mr Tuson's exemption papers, which should have been filed to them when he was 17,

had never arrived. But the manner of Mr Tuson's arrest prompted outrage from his parents, John and Brigitte, and from the local MP, Roger Gale, who represents the Thanet North constituency.

Mr Gale described the act as "kidnapping" and called for changes to the Channel Tunnel Treaty of 1987 which allowed French officers to detain Mr Tuson at Folkestone.

The treaty signed by Margaret Thatcher and François Mitterrand ceded a portion of Folkestone to the French and it was because the area was under joint Anglo-French jurisdiction that an arrest was possible.

However Mr Gale reacted furiously to the incident. "The whole situation is quite ridiculous. It is French bureaucracy gone mad."

"We have got to sort out this jurisdiction question. The concession that this part of the territory would be viewed as French was granted in order to allow the policing of the Channel Tunnel. It was never intended to allow the French police to arrest a British subject on British soil and [in effect] kidnap him."

But Laurent Lemarchand, Deputy Press Counsellor at the French Embassy in London, defended his country's actions.

"As a French citizen, Mr Tuson was expected to complete his military service or seek exemption. He was sent two letters and could have exempted himself but he failed to reply to either."

This failure meant that he was put on the draft-dodge list in March 1994. On Tuesday evening the French police in Folkestone told him that he had to comply with his military obligations. He was not however arrested.

"At the barracks he went through an enlistment test and was declared unfit. He was never under lock and key and he was even given some money to buy lunch."

The reason for Mr Tuson's medical unfitness will not be released. M Lemarchand added that there had been several other such incidents of dual nationality draft-dodging in recent years although not in regard to Britain.

But

John

48,

remained angry even after news of his son's release. "This boy only lived in France for the first three months of his life," he said.

There has never been any suggestion in the past that he should have done military service in France just because he was born there all those years ago. As far as Henry is concerned he's English - and proud of it."

Mr Tuson's mother, Brigitte, revealed that she thought the matter of military service closed well before her son's arrest. She revealed that she had even taken legal advice on the matter.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "We made our concerns known to the French Embassy as soon as the incident happened. We are pleased that the matter has been resolved."

Cup that cheers and drives you mad

Jeremy Lawrence
Health Editor

Britain's favourite beverage is in the dock. The hot brown liquid drunk by over 30 million adults every day was this week blamed for turning a sensible man dotty and leading him into moral turpitude.

Major David Senior, an army officer accused of fiddling the books on rations allowances, told a court martial on Tuesday that his 20-year love affair with tea had affected his judgement. He claimed to have drunk a gallon a day and said the caffeine in the brew had left him addicted.

Specialists yesterday concluded that Major Senior was consuming almost one gram of caffeine a day, three times more than the average tea or coffee drinker and sufficient to cause symptoms, including confusion, anxiety and trembling.

Tea contains 40-50mg of caffeine in an average cup compared with 65mg in a cup of instant coffee and over 100 mg in ground coffee. Professor Vincent Marks, dean of medicine at the University of Surrey, said excessive caffeine consumption could lead to aberrant behaviour.



Going ape: A PG Tips chimpanzee. Does too much caffeine addle the brain?

"If I had been called as an expert witness in a similar case I would have advanced it as a plausible explanation. But talk of caffeine addiction is an abuse of the term. If you stop the caffeine, even at high levels, the worst you get is a headache."

Caffeine, "nature's stimulant" according to Professor Marks, is the world's most widely consumed mood-altering drug. In small quantities, it is almost certainly good for us, improving short-term memory.

boosting muscle power and increasing alertness. Tea, whether green or black, Chinese or Indian, taken with milk or without, also has protective effects against heart disease and cancer.

A group of north American Indians living in Canada who chain-drink cups of tea were found to consume caffeine at the rate of one and a half grams a day without ill effects. Tolerance varies with anxious, nervous people most strongly affected and some, such as pregnant women, slower to metabolise it, so that with repeated doses, blood levels rise.

Doctors say that for most people up to 400mg a day of caffeine is unlikely to cause side-effects. But it is easy to exceed this level. Coffee contains more caffeine than tea and can be made stronger. The drug is also present in soft drinks and chocolate.

Three cups of ground coffee (115mg of caffeine each), a can of cola (40mg) and a 4oz bar of plain chocolate (80mg) would take a person over the 400mg limit.

A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed even moderate caffeine users may suffer withdrawal symptoms. The only cure is ... another cuppa.

Strange case of the million dollar actress and an indecent proposal

John Lichfield
Paris

Arab princes, an American actress, call-girls, arms deals and secret agents... A routine investigation of de-lux prostitution has brought French police and magistrates into dangerous diplomatic waters and uncovered a world straight from the pages of an airport novel.

The investigation, which began eight months ago, has revealed a call-girl network with tentacles around the globe and a clientele including Saudi princes, and other Gulf potentates, according to the newspaper *Le Monde*. Several witnesses have spoken of the brokering of a \$1m sexual encounter in the South of France between an unidentified American actress and a member of a Gulf royal family.

The previous French government placed a brake on the investigation, apparently for fear of harming sales of military hardware to the Gulf. The new Socialist justice minister, Elisabeth Guigou, faces a tricky decision on whether to free the inquiry from its political shackles.

The first signs are that the investigation is already proceeding with renewed vigour. Earlier this week the French vice squad arrested for questioning Paul Barril, a former gendarme captain, once on the security staff of the Elysée palace. Mr Barril, who now works for the



Pierre Barril, formerly on François Mitterrand's security staff at the Elysée, denies the accusations of involvement in a call-girl ring for which he was arrested this week

former Emir of Qatar, is accused of involvement with the call-girl ring. The vice squad also visited the Hotel Crillon, on the Place de la Concorde, where the ex-Emir has been living for several months.

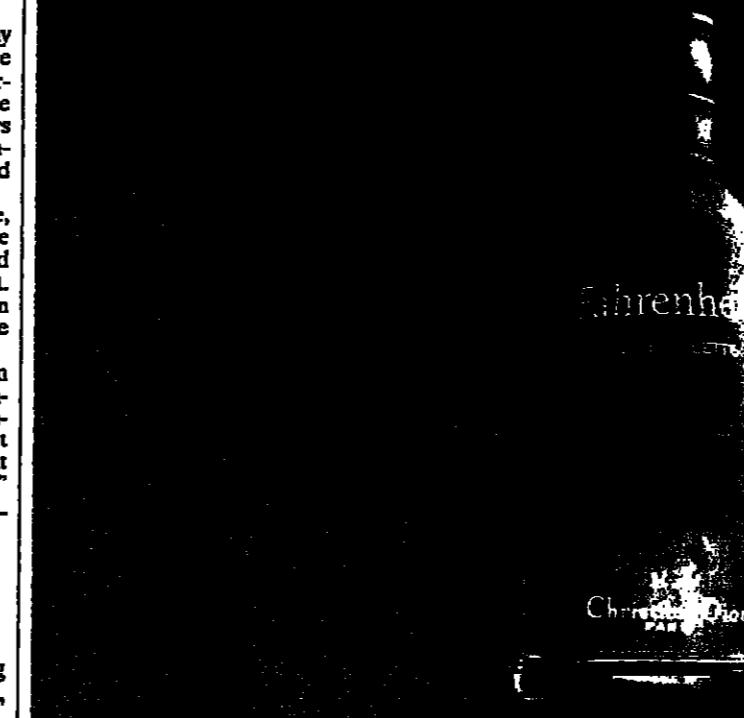
Mr Barril, who ran a kind of dirty-tricks squad at the Elysée under President François Mitterrand, has angrily denied all involvement with prostitution. He says he is the victim of lies spread by disgruntled, former employees of the ex-Emir.

The investigation began last October with the routine buggering and phone-tapping of a suspected, top-class prostitution ring, operating from the 16th arrondissement, one of the wealthiest quarters of Paris. The inquiry led to the arrest in January of a Swedish former model, Annika Brumark, the apparent head of the organisation. Other arrests included a photographer, Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, who specialised in glamour shots for upmarket men's magazines and a Lebanese businessman called Nazihabdullah Al Ladki.

Investigators seized diaries, records and address books with the names of young women, and their clients, from all over the world, from Britain to Indonesia by way of the United States. Mr Al Ladki also revealed the names of other alleged clients, including Saudi and other Gulf princes. According to *Le Monde*, he told investigators that the service had been used for years by big business, especially the arms industry, as a way of sweetening contracts with Arab states.

Several witnesses spoke of the arrangement of a meeting at a "palace" in the South of France between a Gulf prince and an American actress, who earned \$1m, prompting comparisons with the film *Indecent Proposal*, in which a woman agrees to have sex with a super-rich businessman for that same amount. Rumours of such a meeting have circulated for years but they are now, according to *Le Monde*, being taken seriously by the judicial investigation.

Christian Dior



One hot idea for Father's Day

BBC chief invites inquisition from MPs

Rob Brown
Media Editor

BBC mandarins, eager to appear more publicly accountable and to counter suspicions harboured by ministers that they have succumbed to commercialism, announced yesterday that they are prepared to face an annual grilling in Parliament.

Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of the BBC, invited the Select Committee on National Heritage to quiz him and his senior colleagues each autumn when the corporation publishes its annual report.

Sir Christopher also stressed that public-service values remain at the heart of the BBC as it approaches its 75th anniversary in October. This was obviously a reply to Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, who has voiced concern about creeping commercialism.

Delivering a lecture to the Royal Television Society, Sir Christopher said the BBC's unique form of funding – the licence fee – conferred a special responsibility to serve all sections of the community and preserve Britain's public service ecology.

On the question of accountability, he said: "It seems to me that the annual report might provide a useful and precise agenda for an autumn appearance by the BBC in front of the select committee, and that the resultant discussions might be usefully focused and constructive as a result."

The Consumers' Association warned yesterday that the BBC could find it increasingly difficult to defend the licence fee as the digital revolution unfolds and its own commercial activities expand.

In a report, the watchdog body called for a single regulator for the whole telecommunications sector, including

television, radio, print media, telephone companies and the Post Office.

Benet Middleton, a senior policy researcher with the association, said the BBC's commercial interests were not subject to any external scrutiny beyond Parliament.

The BBC's governors, he pointed out, "essentially police themselves".

A spokeswoman for the Department of National Heritage said yesterday that the Government had no plans to alter the way the BBC is regulated.

But Labour did issue a pledge in its election manifesto to set up some type of "Ofcom" body along the lines of the other watchdogs. "It is something the Government is considering in terms of how to take it forward," she said.

Steven Barnett, senior lecturer in communications at the University of Westminster and a leading authority on the politics of broadcasting, said: "Accountability has become the big buzzword in debates about the future of the BBC, but different people mean different things when they talk about this."

He believes there should be a more democratic and open way of appointing and appraising the governors, but he is opposed to a single regulator, posing the critical question: "Who would guard the guards?"

■ Euro-MPs have approved new rules obliging television broadcasters to ensure that at least 51 per cent of their output is of European origin wherever practicable".

The directive, designed to stem a flood-tide of American shows and films, was hailed as a triumph by Labour MEP and media spokeswoman Carole Tongue, who predicted thousands of new jobs in the European television industry.



Then and now: Sixties' 'Coronation Street' icons Ena Sharples and Hilda Ogden (left) contrast with steamy Nineties' characters Kevin Webster and Nathalie Horrocks



Ena would never have approved

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

from the credits, has been ITV's decision to drag *Coronation Street* into the 1990s.

In recent months, the show has been level-pegging with its BBC rival *EastEnders*, but in the long term the show's audience is in decline. It also suffers from an ageing audience – 40 per cent of its regular viewers are over 55 – which is a turn-off for advertisers and means its audience is dying off.

There was also a feeling that

the show had been fatally weakened by losing three important characters – barmaids Bet Gilroy and Racquel, and Reg Holdsworth.

Last November, when *Coronation Street* trailed *EastEnders* by a million viewers for the first showing and by five million when *EastEnders*' Sunday omnibus was taken into account, the tabloids used the five million figure to justify a series of "Corrie in decline" stories.

Now that something has been done about that supposed decline, they are branding Mr Park the "assassin of the Street".

"I was brought in to bring the show into the next millennium and to secure our status as number one," Mr Park told the *Daily Mirror* yesterday, underneath a picture of Freddy Krueger, the murderer from the *Nightmare on Elm Street* films.

However, he said that there would be a limit to the changes

He also plans to copy *EastEnders* strategy of milking storylines for longer.

Next month sees the introduction of the first major new family to the street for years – the Battersbys, dubbed the neighbours from hell but who crucially include some more young characters to appeal to younger viewers.

There are also plans to introduce the Street's first Asian family later in the year.

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British artist's Holocaust memorial will not go ahead

David Lister
Venice

The British artist Rachel Whiteread disclosed last night that the holocaust memorial she has designed for Vienna may never be installed.

The 34-year-old former Turner Prize-winner said that a web of political in-fighting had stalled the project.

Some politicians in Austria did not want a holocaust memorial. Others opposed Ms Whiteread because she is not Jewish. Others said the metaphor of the piece - a concrete cast of a library of books - ignored working-class victims and concentrated only on in-

tellectuals. Others wanted the piece moved away from the proposed site in the old Jewish ghetto of Vienna.

Speaking at the Venice Biennale, Ms Whiteread told *The Independent* last night: "It is all of these things. I am very angry. I cannot now see it going ahead. It is a bitter disappointment."

Her disclosure threatened to take the gloss off the biggest night of her career as she became the first woman to represent Britain with a solo show at the Biennale.

She said that winning an international competition to design Austria's holocaust memorial had been rendered all worthless.

Ms Whiteread said last night:

"No one from Austria has spoken to me for six months. I absolutely refuse to move the piece to another site. It has to be site-specific. You cannot design by consensus."

Her main installation at the Biennale, *Ten Tables* implying endless bureaucratic meetings, shaped in what one critic termed a "Kafkaesque layout", was a poignant comment on the last two years.

She has nearly finished the installation, a concrete cast of a ghoulishly library representing Hitler's attempted destruction of a people and its culture. It was to be placed in the Judenplatz in Vienna's old Jewish ghetto, and was supposed to open last year, then this year, and then next June.

Ms Whiteread said last night: "No one from Austria has spoken to me for six months. I absolutely refuse to move the piece to another site. It has to be site-specific. You cannot design by consensus."

One room of the British Pavilion at the Biennale contains a rubber and polystyrene cast of a bath; in another is a cast from a mortuary slab. The main room contains plaster casts of 10 tables arranged in a rectangle. A separate gallery has a plaster cast of a wall of bookshelves.

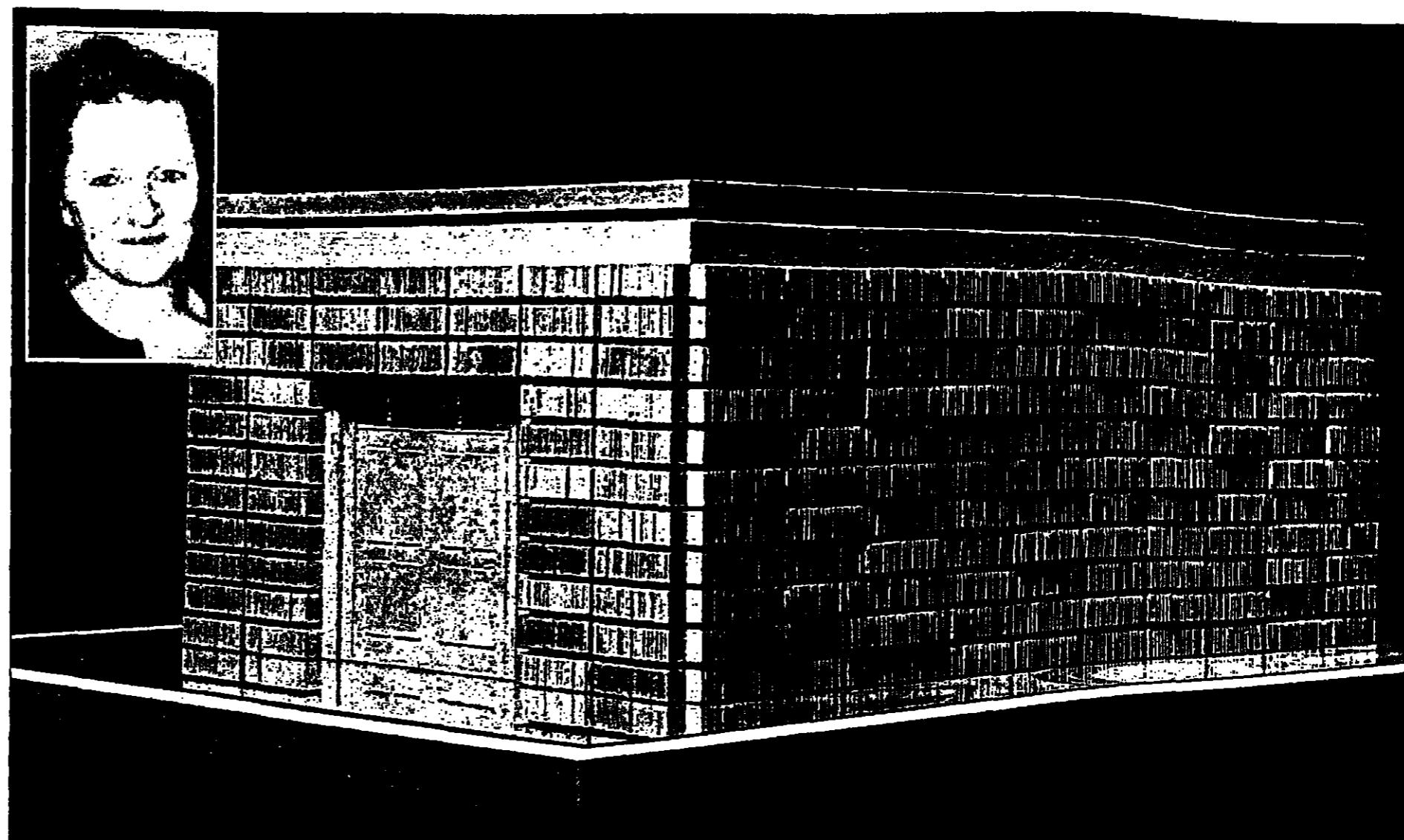
Whiteread was the talk of the Biennale last night as the British Council threw a reception in her honour, and international gallery directors came to see her work.

Imponderable to some, but conjuring memory and symbolism to others, the Whiteread show also hinted at a deeper controversy affecting her and the world of arts and politics.

Other rooms in the British Pavilion last night demonstrated her hypnotic sense of space, light and the effects of water. In a gallery overlooking one of Venice's canals she placed nine slabs of translucent green resin cast from floorboards, the light reflecting off the canal and giving the work a sense of liquidity.

Whiteread is one of the most controversial and challenging sculptors of her generation, ex-

citing both in admiration and irritation. On the night she won the £20,000 Turner Prize in 1993 she also found herself being presented with a £40,000 award for the "Worse Body Of Work Of The Year" at the gates of the Tate Gallery by the K Foundation, a group of protesters led by some affluent former pop stars. She gave the money to charity.



Future uncertain: The design for Vienna's holocaust memorial, by the British artist and Turner Prize-winner, Rachel Whiteread (Inset)

12-year-old Manx girl is spared return to island jail

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

The 12-year-old girl at the centre of the child-jailing furor on the Isle of Man admitted in court yesterday to seven assaults and five cases of criminal damage, but escaped further imprisonment after her lawyer pleaded for understanding.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was

brought to the juvenile court in Douglas by two prison officers. She sat in court, with her long blonde hair in a pony tail, next to her case worker, rushing to chat and hug her aunt and mother during breaks in the proceedings.

She was given a conditional discharge yesterday and was returned to the island's children's home where she is under 24-hour supervision from two

social workers. The island's social services are expected to try and find a secure establishment on the mainland where she can receive counselling.

The disclosure that the girl spent seven days in a juvenile annexe at the island's only prison has caused outrage. Under Manx law, children as young as 10 can be jailed at Victoria Road prison in Douglas.

The mother of the 12-year-

old, who is subject to a care order, said in court that it was "disgraceful" her daughter had been locked in the prison and said she was "missed up".

Her daughter admitted to a series of offences mostly against staff at the children's home between March and June. They included kicking a worker in the mouth and stuns causing bleeding and bruising, and kicking another person in the stomach.

There were also several incidents of assaulting staff, in which she spat, swore and hit out, as they tried to control her.

Her case worker, Rose Banell, said the girl had been in care for almost two years and there had been two failed attempts to place her with foster parents.

Her advocate, Terence McDonald, argued: "This is a child who we all accept has difficulties and having a [criminal] record is not going to help her go into the world."

He added: "This is a chapter that is going to live with her for the rest of her life."

Chairman of the Bench, Malcolm Hartley, said that although the offences were "severe", in view of "circumstances" he had decided to give her a discharge on the condition she did not offend again in the next 12 months. He told her: "We want you to have a long and happy life but it requires your co-operation."

Outside court, Mr McDonald said: "I feel recent events have moved the authorities to think very hard about funding alternative accommodation for these children other than sending them to prison."

In another case, the court chairman reprimanded police for charging a 15-year-old boy with drinking a bottle of lager in public. Mr Hartley said the boy, who had no previous related offences and was not drunk, should have been cautioned.

The case follows criticism of the Isle of Man police for taking a gung-ho attitude to bringing charges, particularly against juveniles. Unlike in Britain, the Manx police decide whether to bring a charge.

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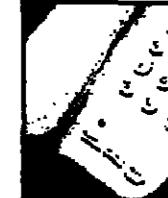
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BUS 46

politics

Dobson fights over free prescriptions

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, made it clear that cuts in free NHS prescriptions for pensioners would be "over my dead body", in spite of Treasury pressure for a comprehensive review of all government spending.

Announcing a year-long review yesterday in the Commons, Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, refused to rule out cuts in free prescriptions when he was challenged by the left-wing Labour

MP Dennis Skinner over reports which alarmed pensioners' groups including Age Concern.

Mr Darling said: "We have made it clear all aspects have to be examined. It would be quite wrong to exclude problems in relation to prescription charges where there are anomalies, where one illness is recognised for a free prescription and others are not." The Secretary of State for Health will be looking at that."

However, Mr Dobson made it clear earlier that while he would carry out the wide-ranging review demanded by the

Treasury, cuts in free prescriptions to pensioners would be politically unacceptable. He told officials it would only go through "over my dead body".

Underlining the thoroughness of the review, ministers have been ordered to look at selling off public assets which are not needed with a view to reallocating the sums raised to public spending where it is "needed most". The Department of Health is one of the Whitehall ministries which is being forced to "think the unthinkable" by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in the search for

ways to improve services without increasing budgets.

Other cash-raising ideas being looked at include road pricing and road tolls which could raise revenue and cut traffic in towns, helping to meet the tough anti-pollution targets set by John Prescott, the Secretary of State for Environment and Transport.

Hotel charges could be introduced in hospitals to raise money from NHS patients who wish to pay for better private-style rooms, with more private facilities. Hospitals already charge for providing private

televisions and telephones to patients.

The review will look at the possibility of raising more money through charges for visiting art galleries and museums.

Library charges could be included in the year-long review, and new taxes on town-centre car parks could be studied to persuade more commuters to use public transport.

Mr Darling said: "The review will be thorough and far-reaching. All departments and all ministers will be involved. It will take 12 months to complete and its conclusions will inform a new

set of public spending plans for the rest of this Parliament. It will take the long-term view."

Keeneth Clarke, the former chancellor, said the review was "all smoke and mirrors" to allow the Government to raise spending and taxes.

Alan Simpson, secretary of the left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs, said he would welcome a hypothecated tax for the NHS, but he signalled there would be unrest in the party if more radical changes were introduced for public services.

"Charging is the least efficient way to raise taxes," he said. "I would urge Gordon Brown to think about introducing three measures in his Budget: lift the ceiling on National Insurance contributions; double National Insurance levels for those earning over £100,000 a year; and change employers' National Insurance Contributions to a fixed percentage of gross profits."

"There is the central dilemma facing the Labour government and there are contradictions in our policies which we are going to have to face up to sooner or later. If we want a flexible workforce, we will have to restore a universally-based welfare."

Prescott orders ministry merger

Randeep Ramesh and Nicholas Schoon

The fiefdom of John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, came into view yesterday when the Government announced that the Department of Transport and the Department of Environment would merge.

Known from next Monday as the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, the move reflects Mr Prescott's desire for civil servants in the two sections to work more closely together.

The first victim of the new set-up is, as predicted by *The Independent* last week, Sir Patrick Brown, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Transport.

Ministers decided the new "superministry" run by the Deputy Prime Minister required only one top manager. The new position is likely to be filled by Andrew Turnbull, Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Environment.

The Department of Transport came into being in 1976 as a separate ministry. The Conservatives beefed up its remit in the Eighties by adding to it shipping and aviation from Trade and Industry.

Many observers say the transport ministry was always likely to be swallowed up by other departments. With most of its industries – rail, shipping and aviation – now in the private sector, ministers looking for more savings would have found the DoT at the top of their list.

The new super-department began consulting on its plans for Regional Development Agencies yesterday.

These are intended to boost development and competitiveness, attract investment and help small businesses when they start operating in 1999.

In a slim consultation paper, the department says it wanted views on whether the agencies should be involved in marketing the region, training people, giving grants and loans to businesses, purchasing derelict land and readying it for development and, controversially, planning and even building transport infrastructure, including roads.

Polly Toynbee, page 23

Leading article, page 21

Ruddock becomes the minister for women



Joan Ruddock: 'Has a strong record on women's issues and will play a key role in our work,' said her new boss Harriet Harman. Photograph: John Voss

THE LEADERS TACKLE BLAIR

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Michael Heseltine The current Tory leader has been standing in for an absent Major, tried to catch Blair off guard. Labour election pledge that children on assisted places would be given priority places and they were then given would be to "mess about" while the scheme was phased out. Was the Education Secretary now reverting to "vet" individual cases, he asked? Blair said discretion was needed to prevent possible fraud.

Verdict: Drawn. Blair said: "A bit of a draw, I think. I think Michael Heseltine has got a point, but I think the answer is that we have to be careful about what we do."

Paddy Ashdown Asked if he believed that Labour would stick to the expenditure levels planned by the Conservatives for the next two years. When Blair did so, Mr Heseltine asked whether it was not "duty" that the Government had committed itself not to transfer savings made in one department to be spent in another. If they were to do that, Labour would benefit. Blair dismissed the point as "not very important".

Verdict: Ashdown wins.

THEMES OF THE DAY

- Mordenhall and Leathes Heath airbase: Platford Springs, C. West Suffolk
- The Conservative leadership contest (Martin Linton, Lab., Bathgate)
- The Private Finance Initiative (Ian Pearson, Lab., Dudley S.)
- Scottish devolution and the Claim of Right (Ray Michal, LD, Anglesey and Bute)
- Land ownership rules in Scotland (Margaret Ewing, SNP, Moray)

GOOD DAY... BAD DAY

Thumbs up Martin Linton
Thumbs down Richard Spring

Managed to ask most of his question, simply poking fun at the Tories' method of choosing a leader; a question that was out of order because it had nothing to do with the PM. The Speaker made allowances for the fact that he was a new MP.

THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Sylvia Herl (Lab., Holsworthy and Bideford) replaced a question on school standards with one on Blair's 203 miles five weeks, saying half of nine-year-olds in his constituency had not answered the questions. Blair said: "I feel as if the shadow [Dan] Quayle were standing over me" – a reference to the US Vice-President's insistence that potato was spelled with a 't'.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Blair was too anxious to risk disaster by attempting Herl's mental arithmetic under the pressure of the half-hour long question session. He said in mitigation: "She and I both know the answer to it, so there's no need."

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Ewing tried to gain the Egg vote for the SNP. She asked Blair to send congratulations to the population, who are celebrating their recent acquisition of the Island. Blair tried to win back the frontiers of Egg for Labour, preening: "I hope they enjoy their celebrations very much... unfortunately I can't be there with them..." Compiled by Ben Summers

Tony Blair has appointed a Minister for Women, it was announced yesterday, reversing a decision made just weeks ago that Harriet Harman should do the job in addition to her duties as Secretary of State for Social Security, writes Fran Abrams.

Although Ms Harman will still be in charge of women's issues, she will be supported by Joan Ruddock, the member for Lewisham Deptford.

However, it emerged that she will be working for free as she will not draw her ministerial salary. The limit for the number of ministers on the payroll has been reached.

The Department of Social Security already has a special unit for women and its head is to chair a ministerial committee on the issue. She will also see all

Cabinet committee papers to assess their impact on women.

Ms Harman's staff have argued that her strong commitment to women's issues would ensure that they remained high on the agenda.

Ms Ruddock was an environmental spokeswoman in opposition, but had not been given a government job following the election. Ms Harman said: "Joan has a strong record on women's issues. She will play a key role in our work."

Polly Toynbee, page 23

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news

Cambridge dons fight to protect green outlook

Clare Garner

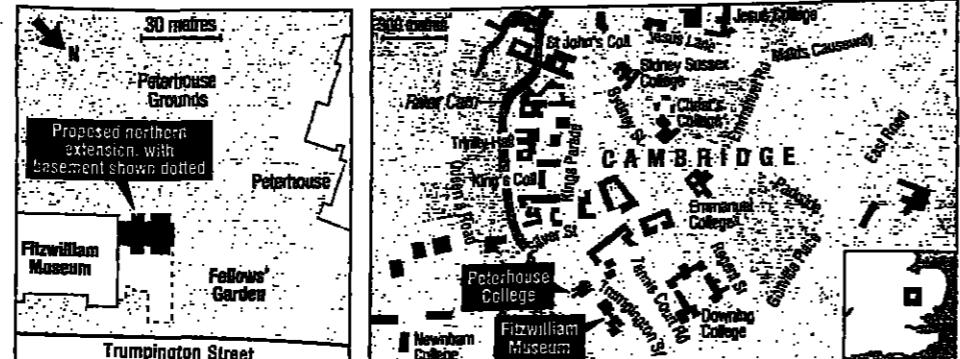
It's the Cambridge equivalent of "Not In Our Back Yard". Fellows at the University's oldest college, Peterhouse, are at war with their next-door neighbours in the Fitzwilliam Museum, whose proposed extension would, they claim, destroy their view.

The 40-odd academics believe that if the £11m extension goes ahead, their time-honoured afternoons spent reading and taking tea in the Fellows' Garden would never be the same again. The "big block" would be "intrusive", would "overpower" the garden and obscure the view.

The Master of Peterhouse, Sir John Meurig Thomas, and the governing body have lodged protests against the plans for the northern extension, which is set back 1.5 metres from the wall which divides the two institutions. More than 3,300 dons and senior administrators will be balloted on the issue next month.

Professor Christopher Calladine, the senior fellow of Peterhouse, will be voicing his objections. "Everyone with a garden and a neighbour is likely to object to the neighbour's building coming right up to the wall, when it previously didn't," he said.

"At the moment, if we stand in the Fellows' Garden, we see the big block of the museum in the distance, about 60ft beyond



the wall. The new proposed northern extension will bring the northern extremity of the museum right up to practically the wall. It will be a big block of building overshadowing our garden."

However, Professor Calladine insisted that Peterhouse's main objection was a "moral" one. The land on which the mu-

seum was built was originally sold by George Basevi, a protégé of Sir John Soane, in 1834, with a giant classical-style portico commanding its east-facing entrance.

David Watkin, an architectural historian and fellow of Peterhouse, said: "It is a Grade One listed building. It deserves to be respected, not mutilated."

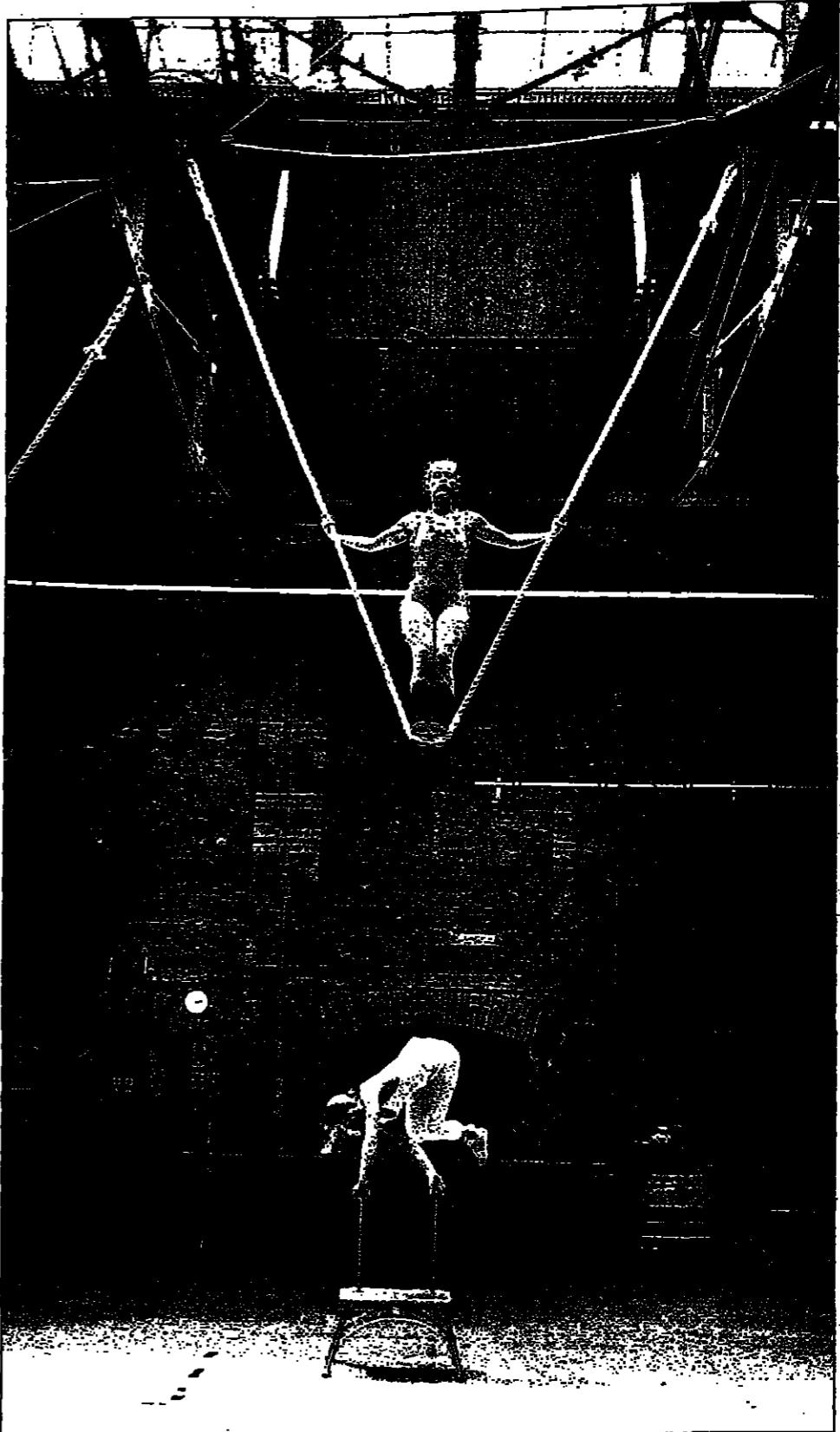
Duncan Robinson, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, is keen that the museum should provide the public with the services of a "late-20th century museum".

He believes that Peterhouse's objections are garden-based. "The first problem the college has is that they don't want to look at it," he said. "From there they are going on, quite naturally, to say that extending a Grade One listed building is a very sensitive issue and we should not be adding to the original building."

Caroline Elam, editor of the *Burlington Magazine*, the monthly art history journal, and member of the Fitzwilliam syndicate, believes that even Basevi would have been in favour of the extension.

Basevi himself was well aware that additions to north and to south of the Fitzwilliam might prove desirable, as his drawing of 29 June 1836 makes clear," she wrote to the University Vice-Chancellor.

She went on to put her case: "The proposed northern extension in its modified form is modest in scale and deliberately reticent in character ... The architect, John Miller, is particularly well-known for his sensitivity to the needs of historic buildings; his work at the Whitechapel Art Gallery not only won prizes, but, perhaps more importantly, continues to look good and function well."



Balancing act: Acrobats at the launch of the Metier organisation, which offers nationally recognised qualifications for creative people
Photograph: Geraint Lewis

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Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

Bodysurfing fish put quotas in their plaice

Charles Arthur
Science Editor

Attempts to set European fishing quotas could face a new problem: the discovery that plaice like bodysurfing.

A new electronic tagging system has discovered that fish can swim enormous distances around the North Sea by using undershoot currents. These offshore currents, created by the movement of the tides, help fish to travel up to 10 times further than had been thought.

Standard tagging systems attach a plastic tag to a fish and then record where the fish is subsequently caught. On this basis, plaice might appear to move just 55 miles (88km) in 56 days.

But an electronic tag developed by the Government's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, in Lowestoft, discovered that during that period, the fish actually ranged up and down the east coast of Britain, covering a total distance of 900km.

This finding has important implications for attempts to set quotas to preserve fish stocks.

Julian Metcalfe, the scientist who led the research, said: "It does mean if you wanted to close areas from fishing, to protect the stocks, you would also have to close areas around it."

Cod and other species take advantage of the tidal drift, say the scientists, whose work is reported today in the science journal *Nature*. "When tidal streams are fast, individual fish can move up to 20km per day."

The idea of closing areas has been mooted as a method of managing cod stocks in the Atlantic, following a collapse in numbers through over-fishing.

The plaice move by swimming up into the tidal stream, which moves north or south, changing direction every six hours with the rise and fall of the tide around the British coast. By moving in and out of the stream, they can reach their spawning grounds in the North Sea and in the east of the Channel, and the feeding grounds in between, using less energy than if they were swimming in still water.

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New bid to tackle corrupt police

Patricia Wynn Davies

Police officers in elite squads should be moved around frequently to stop them being tempted into corruption, the Government will be told today.

The Police Complaints Authority, which deals with allegations of police malpractice, will use its first meeting with the Home Office today to urge a shake-up of specialist crime units in England and Wales to prevent "endemic corruption".

Peter Moorhouse, chairman of the PCA, is also expected to call during discussions with Alan Michael, the Home Office minister, for officers suspected of falsifying evidence or taking bribes to be subject to the same kind of disciplinary procedures as other workers, and for an end to officers evading punishment by retiring on health grounds.

Mr Moorhouse believes that specially selected officers serving in the country's six regional crime squads should be regularly rotated to prevent them forming close bonds with local criminals. The concerns come in the wake of last month's criticism of the South East Regional Crime Squad, when a judge threatened 20 detectives with contempt of court proceedings after a drugs case collapsed because evidence had been destroyed.

Mr Moorhouse said yesterday that the failure to rotate officers led to "endemic corruption - corruption of evidence or financial corruption".

An authority spokesman said yesterday: "The question of how long officers spend in these squads has been on the agenda

since November 1991 when we produced a report on the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. Yet the debate still continues."

The Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) insisted that ethical and management standards in the police service were higher than ever and that deployment of officers must remain a matter for individual chief officers. Paul Whitehouse, Chief Constable of Sussex and vice-chairman of Acpo's personnel and training committee, agreed that in "high pressure situations there was always potential for corruption, but said such behaviour was "very much the exception, not the norm".

Acpo is in agreement, however, with Mr Moorhouse's call for a change in the standard of proof needed to discipline corrupt officers. At present, a discipline case must be proved "beyond reasonable doubt", the standard required in criminal trials. Both the complaints authority and Acpo believe that disciplinary hearings should be judged on a balance of probabilities - the standard practice in Scottish police forces.

The Police Federation, the union for officers up to the rank of inspector, said it would continue to campaign against any change in the burden of proof. Fred Broughton, the chairman, said: "We have to deal with professional criminals that tactically will make allegations against police ... These matters have to be properly investigated. But they have to be tested to make sure that the allegations are substantiated. That's all we ask, that there's a fair, just system."

Figure of fun: A rare 1930s, German-made tin toy of Mickey and Minnie Mouse to be sold by Phillips in London on Tuesday. The toy, expected to fetch up to £10,000, was banned by the Nazis, who switched production to more Teutonic, military-style toys

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Shorter holidays proposed for teachers

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Teachers would be given shorter holidays and fewer bureaucratic tasks under a proposal put forward at a meeting of a left-wing think-tank yesterday.

The suggestion comes at a time when the Government is considering ways to raise standards by restructuring the profession and improving morale.

Under the plan, suggested at a seminar organised by the Fabian Society, teachers' holidays would be cut to between four and six weeks a year.

They would be required to teach on Saturday mornings, after school and at summer schools of the type proposed last week by the Government which will help improve literacy through two-week programmes during the holidays.

In return, there would be a big reduction in the administrative tasks teachers had to carry out and support staff would ensure school equipment such as photocopiers, was functioning properly. The aim would be to maximise the time teachers spend actually teaching.

The meeting was attended by teachers, local authority officials, academics and politicians. Teachers reacted angrily to

the suggestion of shorter holidays. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers are already working in excess of 50 hours a week."

"That is why so many of them are suffering from stress and leaving the profession. We would oppose any attempt to change the working week or the working year."

He said only two weeks ago

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, had announced that he was reducing teachers' administrative load: "I cannot conceive he would have made such an announcement if there was another side of the picture he was not revealing."

At the meeting, held under rules which mean speakers cannot be identified, some speakers suggested that teachers were too defensive.

Guard denies suicide claims

Kathy Marks

A Securicor guard who saw a burglar suspect hanging in his cell denied yesterday that she had claimed he was faking a suicide attempt.

Camille Elliott-Kamara told an inquest in Hammersmith, west London, that the Securicor staff on duty in the cells at Brentford Magistrates' Court had treated the incident as an emergency and reacted swiftly.

Peter Austin, 30, died at the courthouse on 29 January this year while awaiting a bail hearing. The inquest was told yesterday by counsel for Securicor that the firm had not held an inquiry into his death.

Miss Elliott-Kamara rejected the version of events given by Mr Austin's barrister, Stuart Armstrong, who alleged that guards saw him hanging but did not enter his cell for 10 minutes. She denied having a lengthy discussion with Mr Armstrong about whether he was feigning suicide: "I do recall saying to him something to the effect that we've got to be sure that he's not just luring us in there."

The inquest heard that although Mr Austin's conduct in the cells suggested that he was in a disturbed state, he was not placed on a special watch until after he was cut down. By then, according to evidence from the pathologist, he was already dead, although Securicor guards had pronounced him fit and left him lying on the floor in the recovery position.

Patrick O'Connor QC, counsel for Mr Austin's family, said Miss Elliott-Kamara's account was in profound conflict with Mr Armstrong's. "Someone is not telling the truth here and it's you," he said. She said that was not the case. Mr O'Connor suggested that she had insisted repeatedly that Mr Austin was playing a trick. "You were fully aware of the dangers of such an incident and you recklessly disregarded them," he said.

Miss Elliott-Kamara agreed with that suggestion. The case continues today.

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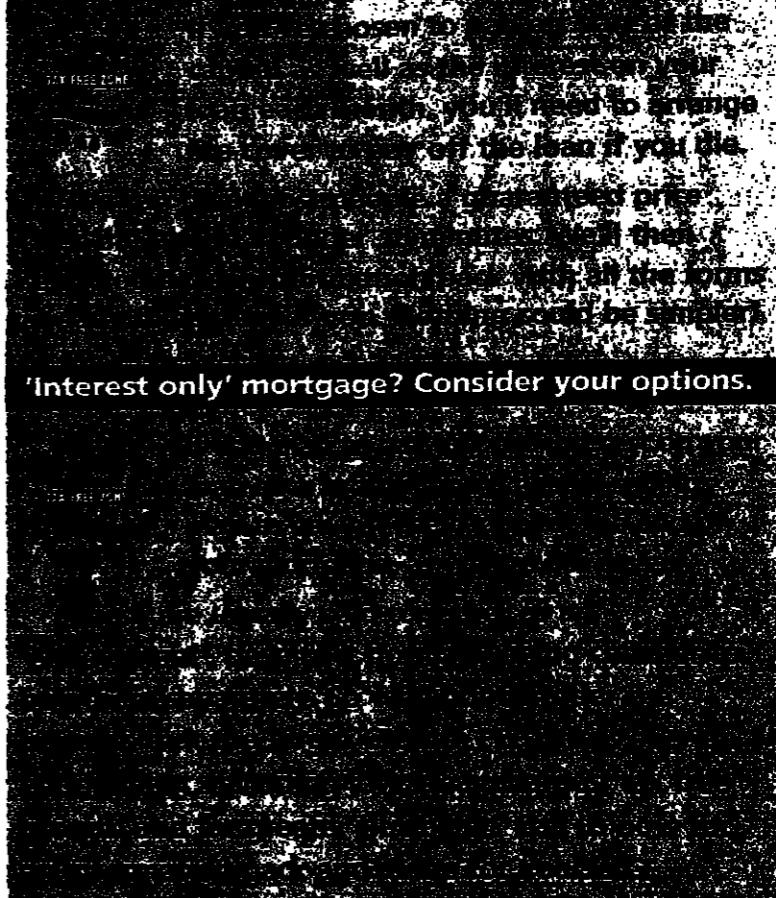


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news



Bra wars: Eva Herzigova in the advertisement that caused such a stir. Right: Trevor Beattie who has upset rivals by claiming credit for the campaign. Photograph: John Resmussen

Breast-beating and tantrums as Bra Wars break out in ad land

Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

In the trendy bars and restaurants of Soho where advertising people hang out, a long-running ad about the 90s most famous ad has become known as "Bra

Wars" or the "Storm in a D-cup".

As if it hadn't already occupied more than enough acres of newsprint, the Wonderbra advertisements starring model Eva Herzigova have provoked letters to the industry's trade

magazine *Campaign*, temper tantrums at award ceremonies and much tossing of pony-tails across the West End.

The success of the Wonderbra advertising – credited with lifting an entire generation that

made their chins – means there are plenty of people claiming to have been the originator of the idea.

The saga, which has been running for some time, flared up recently when the agency that

TBWA, merged with another agency, and its creative director, Trevor Beattie, found himself without a job.

As the only advertising man with his own personal public relations adviser, Mr Beattie – now at agency GGT – made

sure he was never out of the lime-light while he looked for a new job.

Much of this publicity led to references to Mr Beattie as the man "behind" the Wonderbra ads.

This has hacked off one Nigel

Rose, an art director at the cryptically named agency Euro RSCG Wink Gosper, who actually wrote the "Hello Boys" line that helped make the campaign a hit.

At the advertising industry

Oscars, the D&AD awards, last month, Mr Beattie attempted to talk to Mr Rose who blanked him and provoked a stand-up row in front of the industry's

glitterati.

Then last week *Campaign* received a letter establishing a counter-claim to the idea. Sam Hurford, an art director at Young & Rubicam, claimed that he and copywriter Murray Partridge devised the advertisements with the help of two women who came up with the lines of copy that preceded "Hello Boys".

"Say Goodbye to Your Feet" and "Who said Diamonds are a girl's best friend?" Mr Hurford's letter said: "Sales and tins went up. And awards were won. And to coincidence" Trevor Beattie wasn't in the room. Strange, in fact he wasn't even in the country. And Nigel Rose was working for CDP [another agency].

"The dispute goes to the heart of what we all do," said Murray Partridge yesterday.

"You live and die in advertising by your credits. They are worth

money in the bank to you and you can go from earning £15,000 a year to £100,000 a year off the back of one good ad."

"It is hankie-stamping in luvvie-land," said Mr Beattie yesterday. "Nigel wrote the

"Hello Boys" line and I wrote the other lines, but it gets known as the 'Hello Boys' campaign and about half a dozen of us have

at various times been called 'Mr Wonderbra' in the press."

Improve or face fines, rail firms told

Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

The rail regulator yesterday threatened private rail companies with heavy fines if they do not improve their services.

John Swift QC, whose extensive powers include the power to impose unlimited cash penalties and modify train licences, targeted four areas where operators will have to "do better than they are at the moment".

New owners needed to improve the information passengers get about train running times and also upgrade timetable information provided by telephone inquiry bureaux as well as significantly better arrangements for disabled people at stations.

The regulator also singled out the sale of tickets by train companies as a matter for particular concern. Earlier this year, his office sent hundreds of investigators out to pose as passengers and identify the apparent failures of train operators to provide accurate and impartial information about fares.

More than 5,000 inquiries at booking offices and via passengers' phone lines were made by researchers to check how far sales staff provided information about alternative routes and ticket prices.

The results of Mr Swift's survey will be released in "a few weeks". Yesterday he refused to elaborate on its findings, however, senior aides to the regulator confirmed that tough action would be taken. "We promised in January to right any wrongs and considering the preliminary findings we shall be taking action," said one official.

The action was launched after *Which?* magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, last year said it had made more than 250 inquiries or purchases at 28 stations or inquiry points around the country and found train companies were overcharging nine out of 10 rail passengers.

The Consumers' Association yesterday welcomed the moves. "But I'm worried that he has to remind train companies of such simple objectives as co-ordinating services and delivering impartial and accurate ticket information."

Train companies will be expected to produce the plans for new ticketing arrangements by the end of this year. "There are

still challenges to be met and the industry is committed to meeting and exceeding them," said Iain Warburton, the incoming chairman of the Association of Train Operating Companies, the group which represents all 25 private rail firms.

It is the second time in seven days that the regulator has weighed in on the side of the consumer. Last week, Mr Swift launched a fresh attack on Railtrack, the company that owns the nation's track and signalling, criticising its investment record and launching a review of up to £300m in public subsidies the company receives.

However, on the day that the rail regulator sought to highlight the need for better network be-



John Swift: Targeted four areas that need to improve

efits, the pressure group Save Our Railways revealed that train companies were secretly introducing new restrictions on the Network card – which gives passengers big discounts on train tickets in the south-east.

"The Network card makes rail travel more affordable for tens of thousands of travellers. Rail privatisation has only just been completed and already the privatised companies are conspiring to get rid of it," said Jonathan Bray, a spokesman for Save Our Railways.

A spokesman for ATOC, which markets the card, said that it had been a victim of its own success. "There are about 430,000 cards in use. Around 50 per cent of all journeys are made by 14 per cent of card holders – most of whom are com-

muters. As the Network card was meant to be used by leisure travellers, we will be introducing restrictions in September..."



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Was Britain's greatest Arctic explorer a victim of cannibals?

Stephen Goodwin
Heritage Correspondent

One of the greatest Arctic explorers in British history might have met the most ignoble end of all: eaten by Eskimos or, worse, his fellow adventurers.

The 150th anniversary of the death of Sir John Franklin was marked at ceremonies in London yesterday amid many fine words about "arguably Britain's greatest explorer of the Arctic".

But questions remain about the fate of Sir John and his crew as they struggled in vain to walk 1,000 miles out of the Arctic Circle. Canadian researchers have concluded from marks on skeletons found at Starvation Bay - 230 miles from where the 129 officers and men abandoned their ice-stricken ships - that the dwindling band resorted to cannibalism.

The Royal Navy has always rejected this slur on its men. But an alternative explanation for the scars, that the retreating crew was finished off by Eskimos armed with snow knives, is unacceptable to the Canadians. Political correctness forbids them thinking the Inuit people capable of such barbarism.

The guests at yesterday's ceremonies, including descendants of Franklin, who proved his mettle as a midshipman at the Battle of Trafalgar, his officers and crew, were not about to conduct an inquest. Major Anthony Gell, Franklin's great-great grandson laid a wreath at his



forebear's memorial in Westminster Abbey and the party took a boat down the Thames to the Royal Naval College chapel at Greenwich. But there will be speculation on the side.

Ralph Lloyd-Jones, a librarian and Franklin expert, believes Sir John was simply a product of his heroic time - a man who "did not turn back when things went wrong" and suffered the consequences. Born in Spilsby, Lincolnshire, he entered the Navy at 14, earned an almost legendary reputation as a bold

explorer, and died, aged 61, before the grim trek south began. Once off their ships, *Erebus* and *Terror*, there was simply not enough for the sailors to survive on, tough characters though

they undoubtedly were. On an earlier overland venture to the Canadian Arctic led by Franklin, temperatures plunged to minus 50C and the party was reduced to eating lichen, leather from

their clothes and boiled bones from exhumed carcasses.

The fateful expedition was an early example of great British failures in polar exploration, extending through Scott's tragic trip to the South Pole to recent unsuccessful bids at a solo crossings of Antarctica.

Franklin's ships became ice-bound 100 miles short of the elusive passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, later "discovered" by Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian who beat Captain Scott to the South Pole.

Mr Lloyd-Jones finds the Canadians' cannibalism theory less plausible than murder by Inuits, who would certainly have felt threatened by a large group of aliens. In 1859, an Admiralty search party found a ship's boat mounted on sledge runners. It contained two skeletons and two loaded shotguns were propped against the side.

Around 40 expeditions have been made to try and unravel the grim story of Franklin's last expedition - the early ones were sent by Lady Franklin, who refused to accept her husband was dead - but they, like Sir John, have found the Arctic reluctant to yield its secrets.



Forgotten hero: Sir John Franklin and (inset) 'HMS Erebus and Terror in the Antarctic' by John Wilson Carmichael

Photographs: National Maritime Museum

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Hong Kong handover



Military two-step: Kate Tobias and Julie Wooding, curators at the National Army Museum, London, pose in a Lion Dance costume donated with other artefacts by the now disbanded Hong Kong Military Service Corps. Photograph: Reuters

Blair agrees to brief encounter with the Chinese

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

The scene has finally been set for the last Sino-British showdown in Hong Kong. With less than three weeks to go before the end of British rule, Tony Blair, the prime minister, yesterday confirmed that he would be attending the handover ceremony, while in Peking, China announced that the Chinese delegation will be led by the Communist Party leader, President Jiang Zemin.

Mr Blair made the announcement during Question Time in the House of Commons. He was asked whether the Government would owe a moral duty to the people of Hong Kong after 1 July.

"Do agree," the Prime Minister said. "I think that is important." He added: "I will be attending that handover ceremony myself."

It now looks likely that the two delegations will meet for only 45 minutes at the midnight handover ceremony, while Chinese leaders boycott Britain's sunset farewell ceremony and British leaders boycott China's ceremony to install the new administration.

China has yet to confirm it is staying away from the farewell ceremony but Britain has stated flatly that Mr Blair cannot attend a ceremony which includes the swearing-in of Provisional Legislature members.

The new legislature will replace Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council and has been characterised by both Britain and the United States as an illegitimate body. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We're very much against this baby and we won't be there at its birth".

China has decided to send a delegation which far outweighs Britain's in seniority and numbers. President Jiang, the head of state, outranks the Prince of Wales, who will only represent the British head of state.

More controversially, the Chinese delegation will include prime minister Li Peng, who is reviled in Hong Kong because of his role in the Tiananmen Square massacre of June 1989.

Government 'misled public'

A legislator's inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sudden departure of Lawrence Leung, Hong Kong's Director of Immigration, pictured right, published its findings yesterday, concluding that there had been "a concerted effort by the Government to mislead the legislature and the public into what they knew to be untrue".

The chairman of the inquiry, Ip Kwok-him, said that the affair had "brought the Government into disrepute, seriously undermined its credibility and damaged the trust between the Legislative Council and the administration". However, the legislators were satisfied that the Government had good reasons for dismissing Mr Leung.

Mr Ip said that some of these reasons could not be made public, but he was "shocked" by information about Mr Leung which was revealed to his committee in camera.

He said that the committee had insufficient resources to get to the bottom of allegations of political involvement and implications of political impropriety which had been rumoured as factors leading to Mr Leung's departure.



the Chinese leadership in Hong Kong for the first time underlines the tremendous importance Peking attaches to resuming sovereignty over the last colony on Chinese soil. (The enclave of Macau is not regarded as a colony following an agreement to describe it as Chinese territory under Portuguese administration.)

The boycott of the swearing-in ceremony for the new administration was started by the US, which announced that Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, would not take part. US congressmen invited to attend the handover ceremonies have now said they will join her in the boycott.

Other countries are considering whether they should be present. Australian politicians are putting pressure on their foreign minister to join the boycott and Britain is understood to have been sounding out its European Union partners.

A European diplomat based in Hong Kong said yesterday: "I don't think all the EU countries will be happy about annoying China; they are much more interested in trade".

Meanwhile, a new Hong Kong People's Coalition for the Alternative Handover will today announce a series of events to focus on improved living standards and bringing power to the grassroots.

■ Mr Jiang's visit to Hong Kong looks set to be unexpectedly brief for the leader of the triumphant new sovereign power, writes Teresa Poole in Peking.

China said he would attend the swearing-in of the chief executive and new legislature, but would return to Peking within hours to host a grand reception for 3,500 guests in the Great Hall of the People. This will lead on to a "grand convention" and a pageant at the Peking Workers' Stadium. China's top leaders appear nervous of spending too much time in Hong Kong, preferring the controlled environment of Peking's celebrations. The latest rumours are that Mr Jiang and Li Peng have been fitted out with bullet-proof vests for the visit.

The large Chinese delegation also includes a number of officials who played a role in the negotiations for Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule but it specifically excludes China's principle player, the deposed Communist Party head Zhao Ziyang. Mr Zhao has yet to be brought in from political oblivion after having shown sympathy for the 1989 democracy protests. However, Margaret Thatcher, who led Britain's negotiations, will be in Hong Kong for the handover.

The concentrated presence of



Midnight's men: President Jiang and Li Peng are not expected to stay more than a few hours for the ceremony

THE World of Lilly Wong

by LARRY FEIGH © 1997

IF I'M GOING TO GET PREGNANT AGAIN, WE'D BETTER DO IT SOON.

I KNOW, CRYSTAL IS FOUR, THAT'S THE RIGHT AGE TO HAVE A SIBLING.

NO, I MEAN THESE SALES WON'T LAST FOREVER!

Maternity

MUM-2-B

BABY EXCHANGE

END OF SUMMER SALE

RENT TO OWN

LANDSCAPE

BACK TO CHINA SALE

DISCOUNT

LILLY WONG

12 June 1997

لماذا من الضروري

Russia's fear of Pope halts summit

Phil Reeves
Moscow

Secret efforts to arrange a meeting between the heads of the world's two largest Christian churches, the Pope and the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, have fallen victim at the last minute to a fresh bout of the rivalry and suspicion that divided their institutions for nearly 1,000 years.

For months, Moscow and the Vatican have been talking privately about bringing the two leaders together for discussions to ease their strained relations, which have deteriorated sharply since the end of the Soviet Union.

The summit would have been a historical milestone as the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches have been at odds since East and West were set against one another by the schism of 1054. They fought and bickered their way through most of the following nine centuries; no meeting has occurred between a Russian patriarch and a pope.

The meeting – supported by liberals in both camps – was to have been held later this month in Austria, one of the destinations on an international tour by the Russian Patriarch, Alexy II, which begins today. However, sources within his Moscow headquarters yesterday said the church's synod had ruled that the meeting was "premature" and cannot take place in the near future because of several "unresolved issues".

Although the synod's deliberations are traditionally shrouded in secrecy, it is clear that high on the list of mutual grievances is Moscow's anger at what it sees as predatory incursions into Russia by the Vatican in the aftermath of Communism. After re-establishing an official presence in Russia, the Catholic Church has reopened scores of parishes across the country, largely for Catholic ethnic communities – Poles and Germans – who were forced to suppress their

religious roots during the Soviet era. Under the widely-abused 1993 Russian constitution, they are entitled to worship freely, but they have met resistance from a nationalist and isolationist camp within the Orthodox Church, often supported by regional apparatchiks anxious to reinforce the church's unofficial status as an arm of the state.

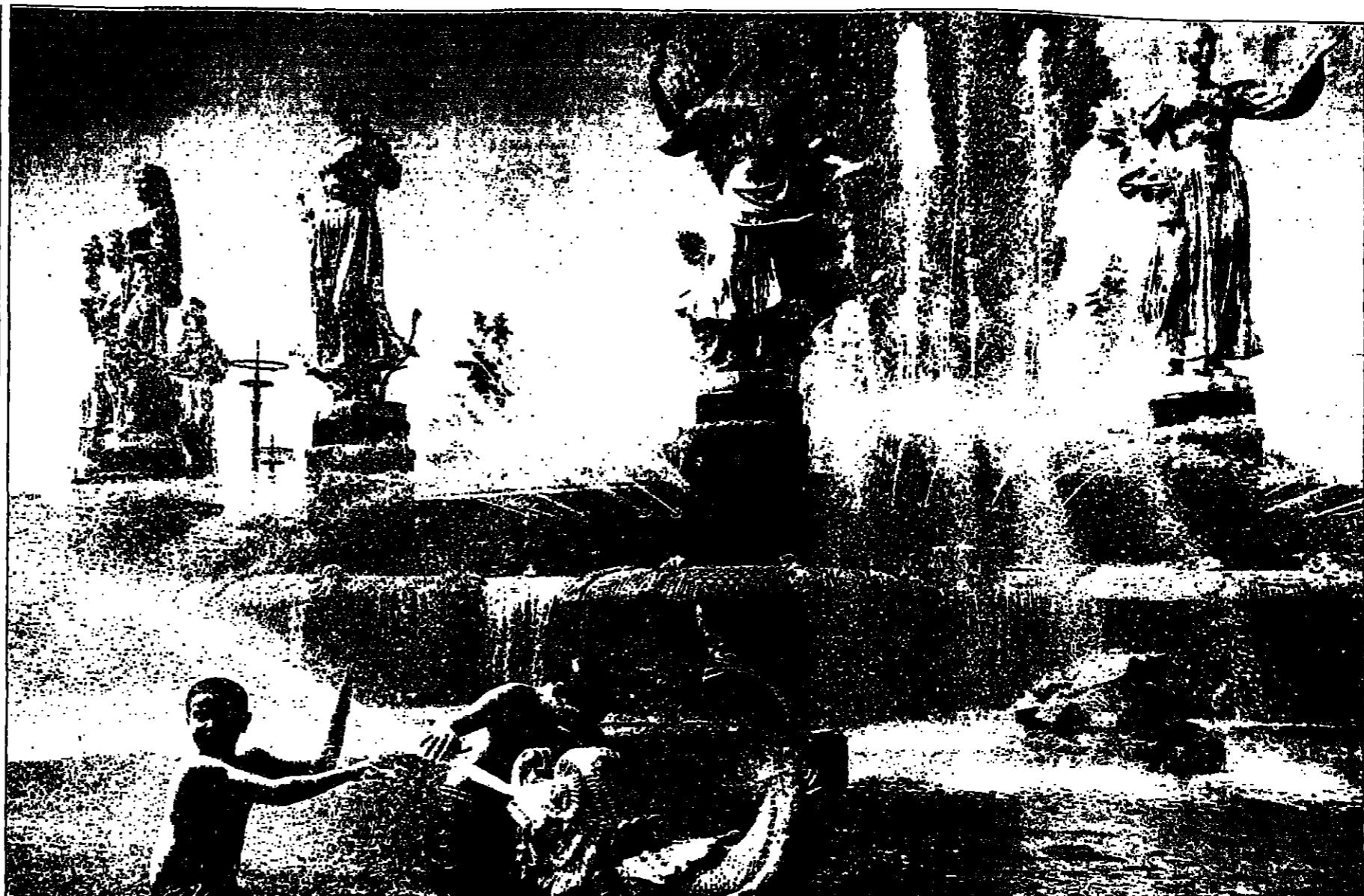
In general, competition from Rome is frowned on, even though there are well under 1 million Catholics on Russian territory, of whom only a small minority are active church-goers. The Catholics have been accused by church leaders in Moscow of "proselytising".

Further tensions flow from long-running disagreements over the Uniate Catholics in Ukraine and Belarus. The church, which answers to Rome but owes much of its liturgy to Orthodoxy, was forcibly merged with the Russian church by Stalin. It was recognised by Mikhail Gorbachev shortly before the fall of the Soviet Union – prompting many worshippers and clerics to sever their links with Moscow.

But the Moscow Patriarchate continues to treat Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence. It suspects the Uniate Catholics of trying to lure away their fellow Slavs by offering worship that resembles Orthodoxy but comes under the Vatican's sway. At times the battle for the souls of Ukrainians has led to violence.

Despite the advent of religious freedom in Russia, relations between the Christian church's two largest houses are significantly worse than they were at the end of the Soviet Union. The current mood of distrust reflects a generally isolationist mood that has seized the Orthodox Church. This is reflected in a trachea of new anti-constitutional laws sweeping across Russia's regions curbing religious freedom.

To this could soon be added a proposed law, due before parliament later this month, which would deny full legal status to minority faiths for 15 years.



Fountain of youth: Two boys defy officials to make a splash in the Friendship of Nations fountain at the All-Russia Exhibition Centre in Moscow as temperatures climbed to an early summer high of 30 degrees yesterday

Photograph: AP

Media stars put at mercy of Chechen gangs

Moscow dismayed as reporters are kidnapped at gunpoint and huge ransom demands follow, writes Phil Reeves

MOSCOW — Russian journalists have been accused of many vices, from bias to bribe-taking. But a lack of guts is not usually among the charges levelled against them.

Reporters and photographers were in the thick of the bombing and mayhem during the war in Chechnya, although it was dangerous enemy territory for their countrymen in uniform.

With peace in place, they have continued going back to the republic, despite the risk of becoming the latest statistic in a rash of abductions that is placing Moscow's precarious relations with the Chechen separatist government under fresh strain.

In the last few weeks, the Russian media has watched in horror as one after another of its staff has been spir-

ited away by armed Chechen gangs, demanding ransoms of up to \$3m.

The victims include one of the country's top news reporters, 31-year-old Yelena Masyuk of the NTV network, who made her name by providing daring and graphic war reports from the region. Many Russians already believe that a humiliating peace deal was struck with their Islamic neighbours: seeing their media stars disappear is a large blow on a festering bruise.

Yesterday, the number of journalists kidnapped this year rose to one after two journalists were forced

into a car at gunpoint during the early afternoon in the centre of Grozny, the capital, and taken off to captivity. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York, seven other journalists disappeared in 1995 and 1996 and are feared dead.

Journalists are far from alone in being the target for kidnappers, who are depicted both in Moscow and Grozny as bandits who care nothing for politics, but a great deal for large sums of money. Since the end of the 21-month war last August, dozens of people – including western aid agency officials – have been abduct-

ed, serving a fresh reminder of the lawlessness that now prevails in post-war Chechnya. By far the worst outrage came late last year when six Red Cross workers were shot dead in their beds.

The latest kidnappings will particularly rankle with the Russians, who only three nights ago were treated to happy TV footage of four journalists who had just been released after three months of captivity and many rounds of intense negotiations.

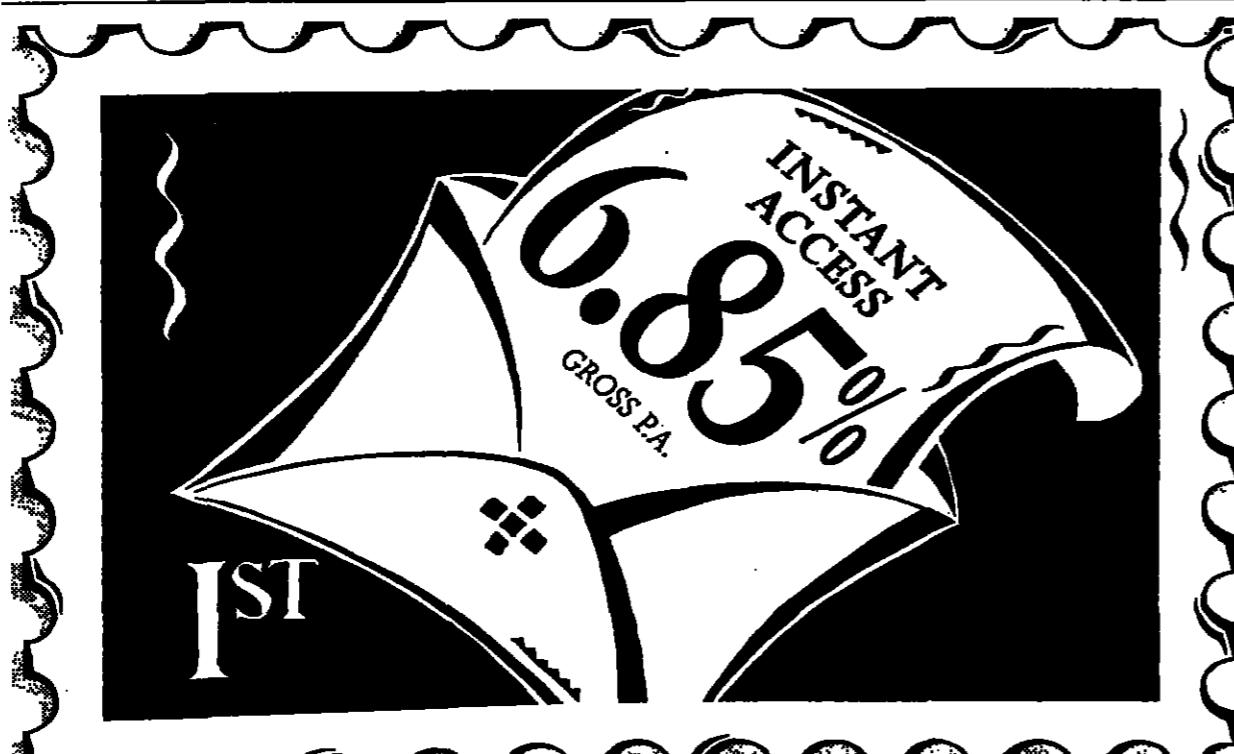
Aid and media organisations routinely deny that they pay ransoms,

although there are persistent rumours that deals have been struck in which large sums of money have been paid, and Chechens have been released from Russian prisons.

Without doubt, some of the kidnappers have struck the jackpot.

The Chechen president, Aslan Maskhadov, has insisted that he has personally led efforts to free kidnapped journalists, and has accused the kidnappers of jeopardising the republic's long and difficult recovery.

Last month – despite their differences – the Chechens and the Russians signed a peace treaty intended to end 400 years of hostility. But, with another two Russians behind bars, this outbreak of sweetness and light will prove hard to sustain.



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battle for the euro

Crisis moves on, leaving France and Germany still poles apart

John Lichfield
Paris

The brief Emu crisis, which may or may not have been a real crisis, will soon be over. The real crises have still to come.

The new French government will probably, after all, sign up to the disciplinary rules for the European single currency when EU leaders meet in Amsterdam next week. After causing a flurry of market and diplomatic anxiety, the French government has signalled that it can sign up for Emu budgetary discipline – the German-inspired Stability Pact – in return for a new text promising to re-focus EU efforts on growth and job-creation.

The details will be discussed when the EU Commission President Jacques Santer visits Paris today for talks with both President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

A Franco-German summit in Poitiers tomorrow, which had threatened to be explosive, may now become a wary but friendly re-affirmation of the Franco-German alliance.

But all the longer-term problems with Economic and Monetary Union remain. Neither France nor Germany seem remotely likely to meet the Maastricht guidelines for budgetary discipline this year; the new government in Paris and the Kohl administration remain poles apart on whether the single currency should include Italy, Spain and Portugal from the start.

Why Lionel and Blair are out of step



Rumours of a rift: Tony Blair and Lionel Jospin

John Lichfield

Tony Blair was in Paris last night for a long-arranged working dinner with President Chirac at the Elysée Palace. The Prime Minister had also made several efforts to arrange a meeting with the new French premier, Mr Jospin. But he had been rebuffed. Mr Jospin said that he was too busy to see him.

Officially, both governments insist that this was not a snub. The two ascendant stars of the European left saw each other only last week at the gathering of European socialists and social democrats in Malmö, Sweden, where the two men delivered very different messages. They will meet again at the EU summit in Amsterdam next Monday and Tuesday.

But it is highly unusual or a top European leader to visit the French President without also seeing the Prime Minister. This is doubly so when the two most important offices of the French state are held by men from different parties. Mr Jospin's office said: "They have nothing new to say. It's as simple as that. There is no problem."

But the satirical and investigative newspaper, *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported yesterday that there was indeed a certain *froideur* between the two men. During his election campaign, Mr Jospin made several attempts to prise from Mr Blair "a few words of encouragement or a gesture of support", the newspaper said. Such an intervention by Mr Blair, fresh from his own electoral triumph and much lionised in France, might have had quite an impact.



French finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn outside the Elysée. He said earlier France wanted to reflect before signing the stability pact

Photograph: AP

against the new Socialist government, by calling for a signing of the Stability Pact in Amsterdam.

Then, Mr Jospin, after a meeting with the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, said the delay might only be one

week after all. "Great efforts" would be needed to agree a text on employment and growth in time. "But we will make them," he said.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Jospin has won anything concrete. Ac-

cording to one version, the declaration on jobs will be little more than a mish-mash of existing commitments in the Maastricht treaty and an extension of texts which were already under discussion as part of the inter-govern-

mental negotiation on EU treaty reform. According to another version, the declaration will be written into the new treaty itself and fleshed out before the end of the year. It could then amount to a real attempt to create the kind of

EU-wide policy for growth which the German government and the previous British government long resisted.

How that squares with the essentially deflationary and monetarist texts of the existing EMU project is unclear.

They work better together.



battle for the euro



Persona non grata: German policemen demonstrating with firefighters in Bonn yesterday against Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plans for public sector cuts in order to meet the criteria for European monetary union

Photograph: Reuters

Bonn tries to keep lid on Emu protest

Inne Karacs
Bonn

The German government struggled yesterday to quell a gathering storm of protest against European monetary union, and was forced to deny rumours that it was secretly plotting to postpone the project.

As the parliamentary consensus over the euro crumbled, Chancellor Helmut Kohl found himself in the cross-fire. For the first time, the German left appeared to be lining up with the new French government, while the right was moving to block the Chancellor's escape route towards a fudge.

Mr Kohl and his ministers drew on their most apocalyptic vocabulary yet to parry demands for softening the Maastricht criteria or for putting off the start of monetary union beyond 1999.

The Chancellor warned: "All other options would have catastrophic consequences for the German economy, catastrophic consequences for the labour market, for our currency and for others."

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign

In public, the Christian Socialists are backing Mr Kohl's line, but privately they argue that a postponement would be a better solution than a soft euro. They have signalled that if the budget deficit goes much above the 3 per cent allowed, they will vote against German participation in EMU.

The opposition Social Democrats and Greens, meanwhile, have finally pricked up their ears to the howls of protest in the streets against euro-inspired austerity. Echoing the sentiments of their French comrades, the politicians of the left served notice yesterday that if it came to a choice between the new money and the jobs, they would support the latter.

"The single currency must not become a monetary strait-jacket," said the Social Democrats' leading europhile, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

The Greens have also suddenly caught the whiff of an ideologically distasteful odour emanating from the currency they had once supported almost unquestioningly. There was a danger, warned the Green MP, Christian Sterzing, that the euro might become "an instrument of economic neo-liberalism". With such denunciations ringing in his ears, Mr Kohl goes to France tomorrow to exhort Germany's closest ally to make more sacrifices. The mission looks almost impossible.

As Helmut Schmidt, the former Social Democrat chancellor, noted in an article yesterday, Germany is not the flavour of the month: "With its insistence on strict adherence to the Maastricht criteria, and its 'currency racism' against southern European countries... Germany has made itself more unloved than at any time in the last 50 years," he wrote in the weekly *Die Zeit*.

Spanish leaders show solidarity with Helmut

Elizabeth Nash
Madrid

Spanish political leaders closed ranks yesterday in defence of the countdown towards European monetary union, lining up tacitly behind the buffeted German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. With the fate of the euro in the balance, the conservative Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and the Socialist opposition leader, Felipe Gonzalez, insisted Spain must hold fast to its course.

Speaking in the State of the Nation debate yesterday, Mr Aznar pledged to contribute to the building of a single currency "without putting into question either criteria or timetables or results achieved after laborious negotiations". He added that Spain was on the point of fulfilling all the requirements and hoped to join first time round.

His speech was a clear gesture of comfort to Chancellor Kohl, now the conservative Mr Aznar's principal political ally in Europe. Peppered his speech with references to the "new Europe" that Spain aspired to join, Mr Aznar promised to meet the "important challenge" imposed by Brussels, adding - in a nod to prevailing breezes - that "social protection" should not be neglected.

Mr Gonzalez in reply said the

decision of a third of Europeans to change their government "complicated" prospects for next week's Amsterdam summit and created "uncertainties". But he insisted "we must keep to the calendar established by Maastricht", and added with a smile that as a signatory of the treaty he was "one of the guilty men - but I have no regrets". This brief and delicate reference gave little hint of the profound humility he would feel if the complex deal on monetary union fell apart.

Yesterday's debate was relaxed and conciliatory by comparison with recent ill-tempered slanging matches. Spain's standing in Europe is of such transcendental importance to Madrid that the changing together of ranks, the reaffirmation of a common approach, is no surprise.

But with Labour's victory in Britain and of the Socialists' in France, both Spanish leaders find themselves out of step with their European colleagues. "We are the last right-wing bastion in Europe," Mr Aznar said last week, a bunkerist declaration that made even his supporters groan. Mr Gonzalez, too, feels outdated by Tony Blair and Lionel Jospin, in comparison with whom he recently described himself as a "dinosaur".

significant shorts

Iraqi dissidents claim murder of army officer

A major Iraqi opposition group yesterday claimed that dissidents have killed a senior army officer. The mainly Shia group, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said Maj. Gen. Ahmed Eziddin Al-Dulaimi was killed on 29 May while on his way to his headquarters in Baghdad. There was no way to confirm the claim, made in a written statement by the Iran-based group. AP - Cairo

Congo leaders call for ceasefire

President Pascal Lissouba and the leader of a private militia yesterday called for a ceasefire between their forces to end fighting that has devastated the capital. "I'm ordering a ceasefire from this moment," Mr Lissouba said on national radio. His rival, Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, went on his own private radio to announce that he, too, had agreed to a ceasefire. AP - Brazzaville

Australian rhino sanctuary plan

The Australian state of Queensland is hoping to persuade Nelson Mandela to back plans for an outback wilderness haven for rhinoceroses. The proposal aims to combine the need to develop the state's vast savannah with efforts to save the rhino, officials said yesterday. AP - Brisbane



CABLE & WIRELESS

JULY 1997

international

United Nations cash row that threatens to isolate America

A bloody diplomatic ruckus is set to break out today with the expected publication in Washington of plans for the repayment by the United States of only a portion of the roughly \$1.3bn (£760m) that it owes the United Nations.

The package, negotiated over several months behind closed doors on Capitol Hill, will be ballyhooed by President Bill Clinton's administration as a breakthrough in the long-running impasse over US contributions.

To the rest of the UN membership, it is likely to come over as a slap in the face. If it is enacted as drafted, the plan would entail a sharp increase in the dues that Britain and the rest of the European Union members would pay to keep the UN functioning.

Not only does the package propose paying only \$813m in back due, a third of the total that the UN believes it is owed, but it is also laden with conditions that are highly controversial.

The delinquent contributions would, for instance, only be paid over a period of three years.

"This is less even than what the administration had been talking to us about," remarked one angry European diplomat yesterday.

Anger is reaching a pitch with the US, if only because by withholding its UN dues, it is blatantly violating its obligations under international treaty to pay up the full amount of its contributions.

"It is seen here as an issue of law and international obligation, but it is not seen like that in Washington," another diplomat said.

"What is happening is clearly weakening the position of the US, as well as the position of all of us who are trying to stand up for international law on other matters".

Due to be made public at a

US refusal to pay its dues causing a diplomatic furore, writes David Usborne in New York

meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this morning, the package was hammered out in negotiations between the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms and Senator Joseph Biden, the ranking Democrat on the committee.

Mr Biden was essentially speaking for the Clinton administration.

Most vexing will be demands for strict ceilings on the levels of American contributions in future years. The US share of the regular UN budget would be cut in the second year of the repayment programme from 25 per cent now to 22 per cent.

From the third year it would be capped at 20 per cent. Washington's share of peace-keeping costs would also fall from 31 per cent to 25 per cent.

Barring a miraculous agreement to squeeze higher levels of contribution from fast-growing Asian countries, the budgetary fall-out for Europe could be considerable. The EU countries would probably see their share of the regular budget rise from 32 per cent now to almost 40 per cent, which is twice what the US is now proposing to pay.

Diplomats are, meanwhile, predicting serious pain for the US inside the organisation. The standing of the US has already been weakened by the dispute. So impaired is American diplomacy here that the new US envoy Bill Richardson has been asking Britain's Sir John

Weston to make the running on Security Council issues that are important to Washington.

And a more urgent crisis is looming for the US. Unless a very large payment is forthcoming soon, it will fall foul early next year of Article 19 of the Charter. This stipulates that any country more than two years behind in its contributions must be stripped of its right to vote in the General Assembly.

If the new US ceilings are imposed, the position of Washington in the UN would inevitably be corroded in other, more subtle, ways.

"People will begin to question the various perks the US enjoys at the UN in terms of the prominence of their people here," one diplomat warned.

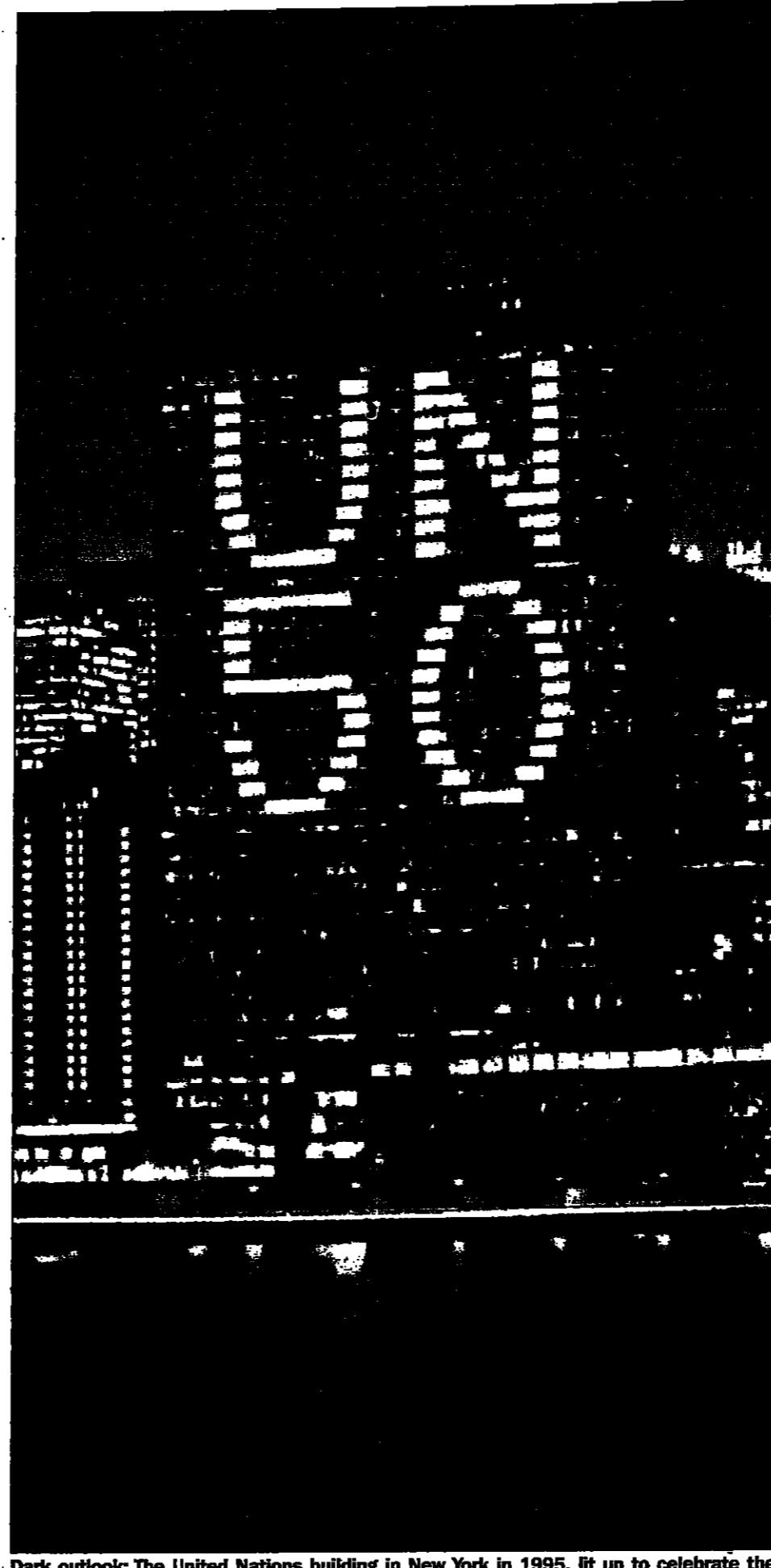
The same person, who asked to remain anonymous, also suggested that the Security Council would begin turning down any requests for peace-keeping operations that are clearly for the benefit of Washington.

"If they asked for an operation like the current mission in Haiti, for instance, I am afraid Congress would have to pay for it out of its own pockets."

The proposed package would be conditional on the US President pledging to certify annually that the UN is attaining certain goals on internal reform. These would include additional cuts in UN personnel as well as strict diets for its array of international programmes.

The document requires the President to certify that the organisation is not attempting any of the following: to create its own standing army, to impose global taxes to raise funds or in any way undermine the US Constitution.

Additionally, the UN would have to agree to surrender its accounts every year to scrutiny by Congress's own financial auditing body, the General Accounting Office.



Dark outlook: The United Nations building in New York in 1995, lit up to celebrate the UN's 50th anniversary. Cash problems cast a shadow over the future. Photograph: Reuters

Scandal-hit Democrats appeal for fresh funds

Mary Dejevsky
Washington

fers have not been replenished as the party of a second-term president might have hoped.

In his appeal, Mr Carville has blamed the party for the death of few contributions on the Republicans (or exploiting the Democrats' funding woes). Admitting that the Democrats made some "honest mistakes", he says the Republicans then did "everything possible ... to drag our party's name through the mud".

The "honest mistakes" include fund-raising coffee-mornings at the White House, the use of White House offices and telephones to solicit campaign contributions, and rewards for bed-and-breakfast in the White House Lincoln bedroom to the presidential plane. Any of these, if true, would break rules that forbid the use of the White House for party, rather than presidential, purposes.

In an attempt to limit the damage to the party from such accusations, President Clinton agreed to the formation of congressional committees to investigate possible fund-raising abuses by both main parties.

Since reports of fund-raising abuses started to circulate, however, the problem is no longer excessive contributions, but no contributions at all. Two big donors have said they will no longer contribute. Others seem wary of contributing for fear of tarnishing their good name by association, while many individual donors have become cynical.

A recent survey showed that two-thirds of those asked said their elected representatives would be more responsive to large political contributors than to their constituents.

The most optimistic outcome of the current problems would be a thorough discussion of ways in which the system could be reformed. The more likely outcome is a Democratic Party machine that is so tainted and strapped for cash that it becomes a serious liability to Al Gore if he decides to run for president in 2000.

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obituaries / gazette

Jill Neville

Jill Neville published seven novels in the 30 years 1966-96 and was the author of *The Poet and the Goddess*, a play about Robert Graves and Laura Riding, which was staged at Oxford, the Cheltenham Festival and the Everyman Theatre, Hampstead, in 1995. For many years she was the *Sunday Times* chief fiction reviewer; latterly she wrote in the *Independent*. She also had a controversial London column in the *Australian*, Sydney.

As an active member of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature (she was elected a Fellow in 1995), she had organised the society's 1997 spring lecture programme, which played to packed houses. But she herself did not witness them. Always abnormally healthy, she was struck down early in the year by liver cancer; she came to terms with her painful plight with dignity.

The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Literature in English praises Neville's "spare style", her "wiry wit and often startling imagery". When *We Cut the Lavender* was published in 1995 the Australian High Commission in London hailed it, after her two earlier novels set all or in part in her native country, *Last Ferry to Manly* (1984) and *Swanwing the Channel* (1993), as "the last of a classic Australian trilogy".

Jill Adelaide Neville was born in Sydney, New South Wales, in 1932, almost at the height of the Depression in Australia. She dreamt as a girl of growing up an artist – poet, dancer, actress or writer of stories. Her grandmother Laura McKnight was a well-known Sydney diva; her grandfather the owner of a private library in New South Wales. Her father, Colonel Clive Neville, came from a large Sydney family, among whose military scions were a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade and Australia's most decorated First World War soldier, Daulton Neville.

She began writing as a child and her stubborn sense of vocation was at once under attack. When her father returned from a triumphant war bearing samurai swords and silk parakeets for his daughters to make petticoats, he was displeased that the younger seemed to have "swallowed the dictionary".

He packed her off to a draconian boarding-school in the Blue Mountains called Osborne Ladies College to make, as it were, a man of her. She thrived at this eccentric place, which pretended to be a boat with its English "Admiral" headmistress (her retired father's rank) parading "my gals" on Empire Day to sing "Rule Britannia" in front of the Katoomba War Memorial.

Her mother Betty, though an active member of the Council of the Royal Society of Literature (she was elected a Fellow in 1995), she had organised the society's 1997 spring lecture programme, which played to packed houses. But she herself did not witness them. Always abnormally healthy, she was struck down early in the year by liver cancer; she came to terms with her painful plight with dignity.

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green fingernails and a Sally Bowles cigarette holder, as "Blue" was transmogrified into Jill, Betty paid a memorable and angry visit to ensure her daughter was leading the Right Kind of Life.

An optimistically choreographed "Welcome Mum" party ended in alcohol and "reefer"-fuelled chaos. A wrecked black saxophonist, an exotic in Betty's 1950s Sydney vision, fell into the Thames. Ignoring pleas to return, Jill was swept into the pub society of poets and jazzmen patronising the French, Muriel's and other cultural outposts in Fitzrovia and Soho.

This Bohemian, unconventional society was just to Neville's taste, and when years later, tiring of its incessant emotional demands, she fled to Paris with her seven-year-old daughter Judy in a red mini, she fell at once into George's Bar in the Rue des Canettes, and so a Parisian version of similar raffish and often gifted people based around the Couplet, the Select, and La Closerie des Lilas in Montparnasse.

Although in some ways a man's woman, Jill Neville had a gift for deep and long female friendships. Her guru and London mother-figure was the Canadian novelist Elizabeth Smart, author of *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*, and for three decades she was close to Barbara Blackburn, widow of the Labour MP Raymond Blackburn, and Mary Tuck, the senior civil servant.

Thanks to Smart, as a young expatriate Neville found herself well off by the female standards of the time, working with, among others, Fay Weldon and Ted Hughes' friend Assia Wevill, as Creative People at J. Walter Thompson, Bensons and a handful of other leading ad agencies. Thanks to Smart, whom she loved as much as she hated her consort, the poet George Barker, she published plays and short stories in *Harper's & Queen* and Alan Ross's *London Magazine*, and completed her first novel, *Fall Girl*.

Published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson in 1966, brilliantly edited by Tony Godwin, here was a picaresque "woman's" novel ahead of its time, as well as a thinly disguised *à clef* ac-



Picaresque: Neville in 1966, the year her first novel was published

count of a brief *affaire* with the American poet Robert Lowell. It was written in deft and sharp-edged prose honed by professional copy-writing skills, but her terrain was literary London at a lurid moment, particularly around Soho. A witty, sexy and blessedly short-winded tale, it was meat and drink to jaded, often male critics. They lavished compliments, citing Anna Nin, Djuna Barnes, Jean Rhys and, of course, Smart in a pantheon of influences. One review called it "the best first novel by a woman" since *The Dow's Avocet*, the best-selling title by Elaine Dundy, first wife of the critic Ken Tynan.

Film options followed, and thereafter Neville was able to work as a writer/journalist at home full-time, continuing as a freelance copywriter for Thompson's in London, Paris and, later, Sydney. In 1960 Neville met, married and separated from the memorably rumbustious South African poet and broadcaster Peter Duval-Smith, by whom she had a daughter, Judy. Neville and Duval-Smith had met by the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead one day when Duval-Smith had stormed out of the famously fiery *ménage à trois* to be shared with the poet William Empson and his long-time wife Hetta. The women quarrelled violently both before and after the marriage broke down but in later years they reached an accommodation. In the meantime Duval-Smith had fathered more children and he died a violent death in the Hotel Royale, Saigon, in 1967 while working as a war correspondent for the BBC.

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When Jill Neville's younger brother Richard came to London and started *Oz* magazine the Good Sister put him up in her Cleveland Square flat with his friend Louise Ferrier. Because of a "life-style" extreme even by Jill's own standards, which did not tolerate police busts, she was relieved when he moved to Palace Gardens Terrace in Notting Hill Gate.

A London of hippies was too soft-minded for her, and soon after moving to Paris she became obsessed and involved with the student revolt of May 1968. In her novel *The Love Germ* (1970), she tells an outrageous and retrospectively almost innocent story of a chain

Photograph: Hilton Getty

of Paris lovers transmitting what now seems a comparatively harmless sexual disease to each other while celebrating the revolution.

During the Paris revolution she had been involved with the extreme "Street Left" Italian politician Angelo Quattrochi, but left him after a conflict involving her friend Smart's daughter Rosie Barker. After 1969 she took up with and later married David Leitch, then Paris correspondent of the *Sunday Times* and *New Statesman*. As on, Luke, was born but they were divorced in 1981, and Neville first lived with and then married Professor Lewis Wolpert, the University College London geneticist.

They proved a highly compatible and entertaining couple and were well-known for their parties.

David Leitch

One of the joys of friendship with Jill Neville was that she – as she sometimes said of other people – "lightened one's soul", writes Ruth Dudley Edwards. She would harness her formidable intellect and her passion for literature in service to frivolity.

A classic example came during a Christmas holiday in her Normandy cottage a few years ago. I was exhausted, and Jill – a great physical, as well as spiritual, nurturer – had decided to walk me hand and foot. This involved her casting me as an irascible aristocrat, herself as Greasy Joan – a hobbling, hawking slut – and a fellow guest, Stephen Cang, as Bunker, a classy but sardonic butler.

Throughout the week, my servants held innumerable and ever ruder conversations just within my earshot about the egregiousness, snobbery and capriciousness of "Er Ladyship". To Jill's delight, I repaid the compliment by giving her a walk-on part in my next book as a slattern with a wall eye, a hump and an exaggerated limp, who was a victim of Fens inbreeding.

When I needed some atrocious verse in my next two novels, Jill, who was a good poet, took on the job giggling. I particularly appreciated her animal rights version of "Judas Iscariot", which began "And did those paws in ancient times / Scam-

per on England's mountains green?", though her evangelical poem – "Clean your teeth for Jesus" – ran it close.

A phone-call from Jill usually presaged laughter, drama or an escapee, though often too it was a demand for a thoroughly rewarding evening of talk. She was a wonderful confidante, for she revelled in her friends' good fortune, sympathised intelligently when times were bad and always encouraged one to take chances and trust in one's talent.

Jill's own career had more highs and lows than most, and she wore her professional triumphs with grace and her reverses with the gallantry that distinguished her approach to death. It was a great disappointment of the last few years that, despite her heroic efforts, her play about Robert Graves and Laura Riding, which brilliantly and wittily mocked the silliness of intellectuals, was never put on commercially. Yet there was the consolation that her last novel, *The Day We Cut the Lavender*, was one of her most successful. Not only did its treatment of drug addiction strike a contemporary chord, but it showed her exceptional gift for describing sensual pleasure.

Jill had acquired wisdom through hard experience, and she expressed it in a way that lodged in one's mind. A couple of years ago, when she was holding my hand through a bereavement, she warned me of the dangers of letting talent dissipate. "Your friend died at 50," she said. "When you reach middle age, you have to look at life as you would look at your last package of typing paper: you can't afford to waste any of it."

Jill Neville wasted none of it. She was – in another of her favourite words – a "Mensch" and a loving and inspiring woman who shone luminously in the lives of her friends.

Jill Adelaide Neville, novelist, playwright and poet; born Sydney, Australia 29 May 1932; FRSL 1955; married 1960 Peter Duval-Smith (died 1967; one daughter); marriage dissolved 1962; 1970 David Leitch (one son; marriage dissolved 1981), 1993 Professor Lewis Wolpert; died London 11 June 1997.



Reade: pianist and songwriter for BBC TV's Playschool

It is perhaps not surprising that it should be the large-scale ballet scores – *Hobson's Choice* (1989) and *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1996) – which brought Paul Reade's music to the attention of the wider audience which he deserved, since so many of his shorter works, including cartoon and television scores, had already demonstrated his ability to paint character in a few deft strokes, and to evoke colour and atmosphere with incredible economy. These two collaborations with David Bintley, staged at the Royal Opera House and indeed all over the country, represented in some ways the summary of a creative period which would have been followed by more of the abstract music he planned to write.

Reade studied piano with Alan Richardson at the Royal Academy of Music, and had his first orchestral piece, *Overture to a City*, performed in 1965 by the Academy Orchestra under Maurice Handorf – the first of many of his works broadcast on

Radio 3. His natural pianistic ability took him on to the London Opera Centre before becoming a *répétiteur* with Sadler's Wells Opera in 1966.

Although elements of the job were congenital for someone of Reade's quiet temperament, it provided the opportunity to acquire a detailed knowledge of opera, and a technical understanding of how the great composers tackled the stage – which not only helped his development as a composer, but always provided him with the greatest pleasure.

He moved on to BBC TV in the late Sixties, becoming the pianist and songwriter for the children's programme *Playschool* for several years. Children's television helped him to develop his facility in word-setting and to write fluently and effectively for a small number of instruments, which led in turn to some highly successful cartoon series – *Crystal Tops and Alatir* and *Ludwig* amongst them. Classic serials like *A Tale of Two Cities* (1980) and *Jane Eyre*

(1983) revealed a television composer of the highest quality. Reade was always a marvellous technician, and he once surprised a BBC sound engineer who was mixing the music for *Jane Eyre* by telling him that it was too loud ("No composer has ever told me that before!") was the response), but this was not false modesty on his part, just a real understanding of how the medium works best. His title music for *The Antiques Roadshow* (1990) and *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* (1987) are typical examples of his fluency.

As a composer who unhesitatingly embraced tonal music, Reade was without any bitterness towards a musical establishment which disregarded such thoroughly enjoyable – and often challenging – music. He was a modest man, but with a confident belief in his music, and a wry self-awareness.

I met Paul Reade in 1975 when I was invited to conduct the first performance of a children's opera he was writing – *David and Goliath*. This full-

length opera is an absolutely marvellous addition to the genre; as I soon learnt to expect from this composer, it was tuneful, rhythmically challenging, great fun and totally unpatriotic. I was hooked, and remain so. I was lucky enough to be invited to commission several choral works from him, including the imaginative *Ballads of Judas Iscariot* (1988).

It was a joy to have Reade around when rehearsing his music – a mixed blessing with some composers. Often after the first rehearsal of a new work the telephone would ring and Reade would say, "You know, I don't think I need to repeat that figure, and those two bars are certainly unnecessary..." As rehearsals went by with the new work would become shorter and shorter (half-a-bar here, two bars there) but always better and better.

He was always successful in getting what he wanted from performers without ever being anything but helpful. Singers and instrumentalists alike appreciated his technical understanding of the instrument's qualities, and he was happy to learn from the artists. Writing for the soprano Elizabeth Harwood, he was fascinated to discover one of his songs working better for her when transposed into a key he thought would be much too high. *The Chants du Roussillon*, he wrote for her, was a result of his first trip to Moura Lyan's Rasigüères Festival in the early Eighties along with members of the Manchester Camerata: the first performance took place in the caves at Rasigüères in 1990.

He formed an excellent bond with the Camerata which resulted in many successful works being premiered in Manchester, including some notable works for children subsequently broadcast on radio, such as *Cinderella* (1980) and *The Mid-Touch* (1982). The atmosphere in Rasigüères, coupled with a love of French music, led to a beautiful Flute Concerto (1985), commissioned by the Camerata and performed all over the world.

Nine years ago I was able to programme this Flute Concerto in a concert at St John's Smith Square with the strings of the London Mozart Players, and suggested to Paul Reade that their then principal flautist, Philippa Davies, would be an excellent choice as soloist. The superb performance she gave that night was the beginning of a marvellous partnership with Reade. Their complementary personalities, their respect and support for each other's career and the obvious love they felt for each other warmed all their friends; their recent marriage was a truly joyful occasion.

When Reade's illness was diagnosed the dignity with which they both faced it and fought it was remarkable.

Peter Broadbent
Peter Geoffrey Reade, composer; born Liverpool 10 January 1943; married 1965 Mary Clark (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1985). 1997 Philippa Davies; died London 7 June 1997.

Paul Reade

Interim accommodation policy was lawful

LAW REPORT

12 June 1997

for a review of the decision pursuant to section 202 of the Housing Act 1996, and for interim accommodation pending the review. The council refused to extend interim accommodation, concluding that the applicant did not fall within section 202 of the Housing Act 1996 or appeal to the county council under section 204 of the Act, following a decision that he or she was not homeless, was not unlawfully. The council must, however, in deciding whether there were exceptional reasons, take into account certain material considerations.

The judicial review of the council's decision not to provide him with interim accommodation, pending review of its decision that he was not homeless, succeeded on the ground that the council had failed to take into account a relevant consideration when deciding that there were no exceptional reasons in her case to depart from its policy of not providing such accommodation.

The applicant had applied to the council to be treated as homeless and in priority need. The council decided that she was not homeless. She asked the court to quash the decision.

The applicant had argued that the Act could not have intended that the position of a

person seeking relief from a decision of a local housing authority, adverse to him or her, should be worse than it would have been prior to the passing of the Act.

It was submitted that the policy expressed by the council must be unlawful in so far as it purported to restrict its exercise to cases where exceptional reasons could be shown.

Looking at the structure of the Act, it seemed to follow from the unfettered right of an applicant to ask for a review that it clearly did not envisage that the discretionary power would be exercised as a matter of course in favour of such a person.

In the present case the council had fallen into error in that it had come to adverse conclusions as to the applicant's account of her circumstances on the basis of what were said to be discrepancies, but did not appear to have attempted to put those discrepancies to the applicant to see whether she could answer them, or whether they were based on a misunderstanding. In consequence, the council's decision must be quashed.

In carrying out that balancing exercise there were certain matters which would always require consideration, namely: the merits of the case, and the extent to which it could properly be said that the decision was one which either appeared to be contrary to the merits, or was one which required a very fine balance of judgment and could go either way, whether there was any new material put before the housing authority which could have a real effect on the decision under review, and the personal circumstances of the applicant to him or her of an adverse decision.

In the present case the council had come to error in that it had come to adverse conclusions as to the applicant's account of her circumstances on the basis of what were said to be discrepancies, but did not appear to have attempted to put those discrepancies to the applicant to see whether she could answer them, or whether they were based on a misunderstanding. In consequence, the council's decision must be quashed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

ADAMS: On 2 June, to Jane (née Law) and Giles, a daughter, Sophia, a sister for James.

Britain's role in a reformation of Europe

Europe is in a mess. The Franco-German alliance, that great motor of unification, common currency and all, is stuttering. The recent meeting of European Christian democrats paralleling the socialists' lovefest in Sweden disclosed, not for the first time, deep divisions in basic concepts of Europe. The intellectual underpinnings of post-Maastricht European unity, never very secure, are coming adrift. British commentators and politicians must not gloat – especially Labour ministers who owe their present good fortune to opt-out clauses negotiated by the Tories. We cannot simply play the innocent bystander. If the project for a common currency on the existing timetable comes a cropper, some pieces will have to be put back together – not for the sake of some mistaken historicist conception of European unity, but for the sake of national security promoted by trade, continental harmony and shared sovereignties. The Blair government ought to go to the Amsterdam summit determined to protect our position, on borders as on defence. But at the same time Britain's representatives need not just to be thinking ahead to the next move in the Union diplomatic game but thinking hard about the reformation of Europe in the new century.

Never say never. Helmut Kohl is a determined and resourceful politician. So too, though he has shown little sign of it lately, is Jacques Chirac. On Europe,

Lionel Jospin and the Socialists are already showing signs of being – as the Germans politely put it – *oszillierend*. It is conceivable that, over the next few days, the recent raucousness surrounding the common currency will die down. The Christian Social Union, the party to which German finance minister Theo Waigel belongs, may stop sniping across the Rhine. The new French government meanwhile may complete its "re-reading" of the stability pact that is to accompany the establishment of an independent European central bank, and which is due to be signed in Amsterdam next week. Some anodyne form of words about jobs and social stability may be added in Amsterdam. The train gets back on track. It's conceivable.

But it's inconceivable that the Kohl government will cut and tax to meet the convergence criteria without opening its political flank to the left. It's inconceivable, also, that the Italian state will undergo a miraculous transformation and get its fiscal act together. That means, unless Lionel Jospin swallows his election promise that the euro would not go ahead without Italy, that the common currency will be born soft – and that in turn means most of the fiscal fear and loathing in France and Germany over recent years will have been in vain.

All of that has to do with the practical problems of EMU. Perhaps more telling is how during the past few days profound gaps have opened underneath the the-

ory. This is about more than the French government being social-conservative while the German coalition is conservative-liberal. Fundamental questions about the size and capacity of government are being prompted; questions which, thanks to the Thatcher experience, seem to have been answered to the electorate's satisfaction here. The paradox is that the common currency comes from the political right, from the neo-liberal side of economics. It is four square with the original common market idea, defined (according to a German Social Democrat who wanted nothing to do with it) as conservative, capitalist and

clerical. The conceit of Jacques Delors as Commission president was to suggest that somehow, without changing the basic institutional landscape or profound renegotiation, Europe could become a "socialist" guarantor of jobs and employment rights. Prime Minister Thatcher made the great error of believing him. Naturally the French government is confused. It is signing up to a banker-dominated Europe with one hand while with the other using its position as a Renault shareholder to demand the postponement of the closure of its Vilvoorde plant, as if governments can will consumers into buying Meganes and Espaces.

The same kind of attempt to square circles is visible in Brussels. The main argument for a single currency is that it will allow the European countries better to compete, globally, by facilitating internal trade and empowering European companies to beat the Americans, Japanese and other Asians. This is a good argument, though not a guaranteed outcome. But how does it line up with the philosophy of high employment costs, exemplified in remarks by the Social Affairs Commissioner reported yesterday, to the effect that worker participation in European companies was "a necessity". Perhaps there is, as the Socialist International at Malmö proposed, "a new economic and social model sufficiently supple to consolidate the position of Europe in the world without prejudicing our environmental and social norms." But the European Union is many miles away from conceptualising such a thing, let alone agreeing it.

There are indications this week that the Germans may now agree to delay the euro, pushing into 1999 the tripartite decision to go ahead that is due next May. Amid present confusion this seems like common sense. The would-be Social Democrat contender Gerhard Schröder raises the intriguing thought that a functioning stability pact could then precede the move to a common currency.

Such a delay is the least of what is needed. The idea that the Brits can come riding in on a charger is anachronistic

and arrogant. But somebody is going to have to put up papers and say awkward, realistic things. Like, is Maastricht II actually needed, especially when it seems to contain nothing to address the question of EU expansion to the East beyond some tinkering with majority voting in the council of ministers. The British presidency next year will prove its worth not by saying no, nor unthinkingly yes, but by practical, limited proposals for rescuing European integration from its muddles and evasions.

All change at Transport

Merging the Environment and Transport Departments makes sense. It is not just that after the privatisation of airports and railways there was so much less for Transport to do. Decisions about transport infrastructure affect local authorities, regional development and the physical environment: all the more reason for lodging them in Environment. So Whitehall is dispensing with the services of Sir Patrick Brown, permanent secretary at Transport. He has been a loyal and efficient civil servant but if he cares for the good name of his colleagues he will avoid taking jobs anywhere near the rail or water businesses, having been so close to their privatisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flawed siting of 'green' electricity

Sir: Nothing would induce me to pay extra for being supplied with "green" electricity (report, 5 June), as long as this would be interpreted by the wind-power industry as encouragement for further landscape despoliation of our most beautiful open countryside. Present plans are to erect 10,000 turbines – each as big as Big Ben – mainly in our prime recreational landscapes. Such appallingly damaging siting is not entirely the wind-power industry's fault. This government has inherited a flawed renewables policy, which forces the industry into seeking such sites.

The tragedy is that we do need to develop renewables and the present clumsy market approach – which places the landscape's value at zero – is making more thoughtful solutions harder to achieve.

JOHN S. EDWARDS
Monmouth

Sir: Your report (5 June) that consumers will be able to buy green electricity following liberalisation of the domestic energy market from April 1998 suggested that this new opportunity was first unveiled at the Climate Change conference organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature. For 18 months, Friends of the Earth has been at the forefront of this new agenda.

In the run-up to liberalisation, it is essential that all electricity consumers receive information from their electricity companies on the fuel they use. Consumers receive little or no environmental information from their regional electricity company on the products they buy.

The regional electricity companies have a key role to play in educating the public on the contribution to climate change from different fuel sources, and on the need to use electricity far more efficiently and from renewable sources. For such a scheme to work, it would have to be mandatory and have the backing of government.

DR PATRICK GREEN
Friends of the Earth
London N1

Sir: It is a good idea for consumers to be allowed to choose electricity from renewable sources, but with price differences of perhaps 10 per cent, individuals would be likely to reject the burden of change being transferred from the electricity companies to themselves.

If VAT relief was debated as an option to close the price gap to more realistic levels, Labour would have the opportunity of demonstrating where they stand in the areas of progressive environmentalism and profit-oriented utilities.

MARK WALMSLEY
Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire

Patents prevent plagiarism

Sir: Sam Clarke's letter, which you published (10 June) under the heading "Biotech patents hamper research", betrays a misunderstanding of the patent system and the proposals contained in the draft Directive on the Protection of Biotechnological inventions.

Patents do not hamper research. Many jurisdictions have a statutory mechanism to give effect to this principle. In the UK for example, the Patents Act 1977 exempts from

infringement something which "is done for experimental purposes relating to the subject-matter of the [patented] invention". What a patent does is to enable the proprietor of an invention to control for a limited period of time its commercial exploitation, and rightly so, without patents, plagiarism would be rife.

The research exemption provision in patent legislation will continue to allow research on a patent invention without infringement.

A strong intellectual property base in biotechnology will actually encourage innovation, promote the sharing of knowledge and stimulate further research, not prevent it.

The draft Directive would do nothing to remove the public's (or a competitor's) ability to seek to revoke a patent which they believe has been wrongly granted, using the procedures laid down in the Patents Act 1977 or the European Patent Convention.

ANDREW SHEARD
Patent Attorney
Kilburn Strode
London WC1

Sir: One has to question why Sam Clarke (Letters, 10 June) is giving a misleading view on the draft European Union Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions. The Directive is not seeking to patent "the essence of life", nor will it prevent further research being carried out in the fields of any new patents.

The Directive, which has been the subject of much discussion by many of the expert committees of the European parliament over the last seven years or so, seeks only to harmonise across Europe that which is already patent practice. If the Directive is passed, it will not lead to patent rights in

biotechnology being any broader than exists at present. The Directive will not affect the scope of patent claims and established mechanisms will remain in existence allowing patent decisions, which are felt to be too broad, to be challenged.

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Kilburn Strode
London WC1

Sir: One has to question why Sam Clarke (Letters, 10 June) is giving a misleading view on the draft European Union Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions. The Directive is not seeking to patent "the essence of life", nor will it prevent further research being carried out in the fields of any new patents.

The Directive, which has been the subject of much discussion by many of the expert committees of the European parliament over the last seven years or so, seeks only to harmonise across Europe that which is already patent practice. If the Directive is passed, it will not lead to patent rights in

Algerian election is no joke

Sir: Had my piece in *The Oldie* been the only article I had written on Algeria then Rob Brown's vicious attack on me (*Tabloid*, 9 June) might have been justified. But it was not.

Had Mr Brown read *The Observer*'s front page on 25 May 1997 "The blowtorch election that shamed Britain" it might not have squared with his impression of me as a "joker". In this article, I wrote about the widespread use of torture, including blowtorches, in Algeria's police stations; the fears that the horrific massacres are being caused not by the Islamic terrorists but the military junta; and a shipment of defence equipment to Algeria by a British company.

Not many jokes there. Had Mr Brown opened *The Observer* a Sunday he would have read a two-page spread inside, detailing how "the military is torturing and killing its way to victory over Islamists in the June poll." In this article I quoted a spokesman for Amnesty International: "the spokesman added that 58 journalists had been murdered since 1992. Not a single person has been brought to justice for the killings of these journalists. It does raise very serious questions about what is really happening."

As to Mr Brown's objection to the tone of *The Oldie* piece, he may have a point. I am afraid I deal with my own terrors through laughter and a sense of the absurd. So does

Phil Davison, of *The Independent*, whom I took to hospital after he had been shot in Dubrovnik. Inside the Serb hospital, on the examination table, he joked about his suppurating leg wound in a way which would, no doubt, have offended Rob Brown.

Had he been there.

JOHN SWEENEY
Reporter
The Observer
London EC1

The challenge of living with MND

Sir: Jeremy Laurance's report (10 June) is misleading regarding the role of the Motor Neurone Disease Association in the Annie Lindsell case. As the only national organisation providing care and support to people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) we have a keen interest in the outcome of the case and the potential implications for our members.

However, your readers should be aware that we are not in any way involved in the action being taken by Ms Lindsell and that our support has not been sought.

MND is a rapidly progressive terminal condition affecting approximately 5,000 people in the UK. The cause is unknown and there is no cure. The challenge for people living with MND is how to maximise their quality of life up to the very end. The Annie Lindsell case will open up the debate about quality of life and we welcome the discussion which will follow.

GEORGE LEVY
Chief Executive
Motor Neurone Disease Association
Northampton

Astronomy moves to Edinburgh

Sir: Although the decision that John Battle, the new minister for science and technology, faces over the future of the Royal Observatory is a difficult one, I'm not sure that he will be much helped by your feature "A Closed Subject" (*Tabloid*, 10 June).

I'm surprised that Sir Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal, is quoted as demanding more consultation on the issue. The subject has been debated *ad nauseam* in the astronomical community and within the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council (PPARC). Most astronomers are in agreement that a clear decision is needed to focus the UK's technological development of instrumentation for optical and infra-red telescopes in a single Astronomical Technology Centre. And every time the location for such a centre has been debated by astronomers, the conclusion has been that on balance it should be in Edinburgh. This is simply a reflection that the future lies in infra-red astronomy, which has been Edinburgh's speciality.

The scale of the restructuring required at present is a product of past gathering by PPARC and the ludicrous Prior Options exercise of the past two years. As chairman of PPARC's main astronomy grants committee I am extremely concerned that whole areas of astronomy will cease to be funded if we do not carry out this restructuring. Bluntly, in a couple of years' time our current ground-based programme will need only about half as many people as are currently employed at the two observatories.

The 320 year old history of the Royal Greenwich Observatory has been mostly associated with Greenwich, and will remain alive there. The seven years of association of RGO with Cambridge are not a strong enough reason to negate the case for an Edinburgh Astronomical Technology Centre. Professor MICHAEL ROWAN-ROBINSON
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
London SW7

Wanted: a good glass of wine

Sir: Why can't I buy decent wine in a British pub? In an ordinary bar in mainland Europe I can buy very cheaply a glass of reasonable wine. Why not here? I know all the usual excuses: wine is cheaper in the country of origin; beer has always been the thing to drink in a pub; there are many good wine bars.

The situation is still a disgrace. It is up to wine-drinkers to make themselves heard. Instead of avoiding the pub, or drinking something which is not first choice, it would be more effective to order the wine and reject it when it is below standard, as we would if the beer was awful.

GRAHAM BALFREY
Bristol

Conquest of Ceuta
Sir: Can someone please explain how Spain can expect to take back Gibraltar (report, 10 June) before it returns Ceuta to Morocco (or even to Portugal)? Gibraltar was ceded by treaty; Ceuta by conquest. JOHN EVANS
Marlow, Buckinghamshire



Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

profile

The political luck of the youthful pretender

Little is known even to his fellow politicians about the convictions of William Hague, the tipsters' favourite to be elected leader of the Tory party but, says Donald Macintyre, that may be no accident

When, after that famous and abortive glass of champagne with Michael Howard, William Hague decided to run for the 'Tory leadership after all, Nick Thomas, an old friend and fellow Conservative from Oxford days, went straight down to the bookmaker's and put a fiver on his old chum becoming the next leader. Thomas made two calculations: "First, I thought, William was never a gambler so he must be pretty sure he can win," he said yesterday. And the other was that the 164-strong Conservative parliamentary party was a good deal smaller as a constituency than the Oxford University Conservative Association which Hague dominated as president in the early Eighties. For, says Thomas, apart from being the "best debater of his generation", already blessed with an extraordinarily sophisticated understanding of what the newish Thatcher government was all about, Hague as a machine politician was simply "the best". If he could dominate the faction-torn OCUA, he could probably get the better of a demoralised bunch of Tory MPs as well.

This little glimpse of Hague as a political organiser - he turned the so-called "Magdalen machine" based at his own college from a rather toffs-dominated Tory faction into a formidable counterweight to the leftist Tory Reform Group, adds a little to an otherwise sketchy body of knowledge about the new pretender to the Tory crown. We know that he's balding. That he won a standing ovation with a dauntingly precocious speech to the 1977 Tory party conference. That he's engaged to be married to Ffion Jenkins, the pretty and well-connected civil servant who taught him the Welsh national anthem. That three years at Oxford left his South Yorkshire accent fairly intact. And that he's only 36. And that's about it - not much for a man now enthusiastically touted by his rapidly growing fan club as the man who can save the Conservative Party and storm into Downing Street as an even younger prime minister than Tony Blair in five years' time. It is a CV which leaves open at least two of the biggest questions about him: how did he get so far, so fast, and what does he believe?

It also leaves out one consistent feature of his rapid rise: enormous, enviable doses of luck. It is often said of politicians - it was frequently said of Margaret Thatcher - that the best make their own luck. And not even those Tories now opposing Hague doubt that he is clever. But he has also been lucky - as, to be fair, has Blair. Hague was noticed by Sir Leon Brittan on a visit to the Oxford

Union and plucked out of his post-university career at McKinsey's, the management consultants to be a special adviser at the Treasury. For a time at McKinsey's he worked with Archie Norman, later Asda chairman and a likely root-and-branch reorganiser of the party machine if Hague wins. He thus became a natural in a strong field to take the seat in Richmond, Yorkshire when Brittan went to the European Commission.

The Richmond party was so traditionalist that a rival candidate was told he had been put on the shortlist because his wife had the "best legs". Answering local party executive questions, the still-single Hague was reported as saying something to the effect: "I've booked the church, I've hired the limo. I've planned the honeymoon. Now all I need is the girl. Lock up your daughters." (According to one account, his friend Alan Duncan made a similar speech several years later when he stood at Rutland, though Duncan is said to have no recollection of this.)

Hague had the extra good fortune at the by-election to have the SDP as his main rival at a time when the alliance was in the throes of its post-general election self-destruction. Hague romped home. He was also lucky that John Redwood resigned in 1995 to take on John Major. Luckier still that Major, remembering his own meteoric rise from a middle-ranking social security post, replaced Redwood in the Cabinet job of Welsh Secretary with Hague. He could not have foreseen that Michael Portillo would have lost Enfield Southgate and deprive the right wing of its most charismatic contender. Nor, finally, that John Redwood rather than Michael Howard or Peter Lilley came top of the three hard-right contenders, with the result that the right split in his own favour.

But there was skill - and ambition - as well as luck. Hague grew up during the peak of corporatism power in the Seventies in the People's Republic of South Yorkshire. The son of a small soft drinks businessman, it wasn't difficult for him to develop antipathy to the left and, according to one of his oldest friends, he was sporting blue rosettes during local elections at Arthur Scargill's pitsheads. "He had no compunction about saying

"I don't know about you guys but I'm a Conservative". He was able to have strong and for the area quite unusual convictions - while still staying one of the lads." What's striking, moreover, in the famous 1977 speech, delivered at the age of 16, is precisely the neo-liberal, proto-Thatcherite tone, with its call for people to be "freed" from state interference, and its critique

of previous Tory governments for not doing more to restore the "liberty of the individual" robbed by Labour. But herein lies one of the enigmas of the Hague career. Was this conviction, as his supporters claim, or an acute sense of the direction of the prevailing political wind?

At least one university contemporary remembers him being "fashionably" rather than ferociously right wing when he went from the local Wath-on-Dearne comprehensive to Oxford, his party conference fame travelling before him. But another, Andrew Sullivan, now editor of the right-of-centre *New Republic* political journal, insists that Hague does have deep convictions though he tends to keep them "well concealed". At that time, he says, "there were a lot of us who were very sympathetic to Thatcherism when not everyone in the Tory party was, but who also saw the need to reach out." But Sullivan, like others, attest to a strong streak of social liberalism. Sullivan yesterday recalled him as Union president holding a debate on the age of consent for gays (he would later vote in Parliament for the age to be reduced to 16).

He was certainly a brilliant debater - with one contemporary remembering a scathing, if unmistakably undergraduate speech in which he excoriated the SDP, which he predicted would "degenerate into the heterosexual wing of the Liberal Party". He was popular, clever and energetic. According to Sullivan: "Because he is such a smart politician people overlook that he has a real brain. He got his PPE First without any apparent effort."

The Sullivan analysis notwithstanding, opponents in both the Redwood and the Clarke camps will continue to make much of the argument that Hague's beliefs on many topics are if not informed, at least unknown. In a striking example of the detail in which the leadership war is now being waged, Hague is now under fire from the Redwood camp for allegedly allowing public spending to rise when he was Welsh Secretary. While Redwood, so the claim goes, had reduced grant aid to the Welsh Development Agency from £69.5m to £25m, Hague allowed it to rise to £84.7m in 1997-98, largely by being more reluctant to sanction land sales.

On the Tory left, however, MPs who know Hague claim to be baffled about what his views are on important economic issues. "What are his real views about public spending or injection of private funding into the welfare state, or the NHS or local government?" asks one who has known him for more than a decade. "If I look up the record on Ken Clarke, John Redwood I can find the answers but with William I can't."

There have also been claims that Hague has been equivocating about his attitude to Europe and the single currency. It is certainly true that he strengthened his Euro-sceptic credentials as



one of a group - of which Michael Howard was the acknowledged leader - which tried to persuade John Major within the Cabinet to end the "wait and see" policy on EMU. And it's true that he was impressed by a visit to Japan in which he reportedly found that several prominent business leaders were worried about any idea that the UK would leave the EU, while being privately baffled that the British would want to sacrifice their currency.

Both left and right opponents claim to have been bemused by his appearances during the current campaign at both the right-wing '92 Group and the left-of-centre Positive European Group.

At the '92, he is said to have avoided answering a question from the hard-right Julian Lewis about why, a few days before he announced that he was against the single currency in principle, Nigel Evans, a prominent member of his campaign team, had said he didn't know what Hague's views were. And at the pro-European meeting he apparently softened the wording of his opposition to the single currency under questioning from the fiercely pro-European John Gummer.

No doubt this can be put down to the needs of running a successful campaign as the unity candidate. But because he is up against Redwood and

Clarke, two conviction politicians who lack nothing in political bravery, the "where's the beef" charge will continue to run. Particularly since the most prominent original figures in his campaign team are, in the words of one opponent, "senior emulsifiers" of the party rather than leading exponents of economic policy. And for all the campaign team's attempts to explain it away, John Major - and some other grandees - were distinctly unchuffed by Hague's suggestion that the former Prime Minister had presided over an era of fudge. It looked, and still looks, like a naked attempt to fend off accusations that he is "John Major with a PPE First".

The fact is that while Hague may be more right wing than his left-wing backers realise, he remains something of a political *tabula rasa*. His opponents continue to doubt whether he made the right decision that night when he returned from the Howard pact to a welter of messages on his answering machine urging him to run. "It could just be too early for him," said one fellow-MP. "Yes, if he wins he could turn out to be the greatest prime minister since Pitt the Younger. And he could find himself, after the next election, an ex-leader of the Tory party at 41."

Something to clap about:
William Hague is hopeful of becoming the next Tory leader and an even younger prime minister than Tony Blair

Photograph:
Peter Byrne/
Guzelian

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Offer also applies to spouses.

We talked pigs. They go bang, said Gerry

Gerry Adams likes the way PG Wodehouse writes, it seems, so yesterday I brought you the first half of a new Wodehouse story about Gerry Adams, created by the mighty *Independent* computer. Today the second half!

Story so far. Bertie Wooster, who would far rather be playing golf at the weekend, has gone to stay with his uncle Lord Wolfram to borrow him and to see more of his lovely daughter Kate. Unfortunately, Kate seems more interested in an Irishman called Gerry who has wangled an invitation for the weekend.

"Dash it all, Kate!" I cried when at last we found ourselves alone together. "What do you see in this Gerry Adler cove?"

"His name is Adams, Bertie, and I won't have you being rude to him."

"Very well, but first of all tell me what you see in him! Don't tell me you enjoy his conversation. I can hardly make out what he is saying in that brogue of his!"

"That is typical of the unthinking prejudice he has had to put up with all his

life," she flashed back. "Gerry has had a very hard life, what with post-colonial angst and the trauma of being in a permanently suppressed minority."

I didn't know what the girl was talking about. I suspected she didn't either. I suspected she might have picked it up off the Irish chap.

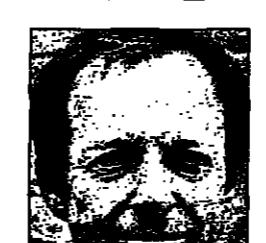
"Come off it, Kate," I said. "I have lived all my life as a member of a perpetually downtrodden minority and it has never broken my spirit."

"What minority might that be?"

"The ranks of poor but honest relatives," I said, rather wittily, I thought. "Do you happen to know if this would be a good time to touch Uncle Wilbert for a few of the readies?"

"I think all Daddy's spare cash is going on Sleeping Beauty at the moment."

This was the name Lord Wolfram had given to the prize pig with which he hoped to beat the Empress of Blandings, Lord Emsworth's champion, and I thought I might moose on down to the Wolfram pig stable to admire the monster, on the grounds that if Uncle



Miles Kington

*Wilbert spotted me doing so it might soften his heart towards me. *En route* I bumped into Jeeves, who materialised out of a bush and took my arm.*

"Something up, Jeeves?" I said. "Am I wearing the wrong tie with the wrong shirt, or got my cuff-links upside down?"

"No sir," he said. "It is just to warn you that if you should encounter Mr Adams, I would be very careful. He is not all he seems. Whoever it is behind the arras, it may not be Polonius."

"Dash it Jeeves, must you always talk in parables?" I said, but he had already gone. I strolled on for a while through the ample grounds of Wolfram Towers, which are large enough to put many a smaller county to shame, until a certain fragrance told me that I was nearing pig country. I found the pen in which Sleeping Beauty was living up to the first half of her name at least and was just musing on the extraordinary way in which many noblemen will lose their hearts to a pig or horse or even car, when they seem not to notice their wives any more, when I became aware of a presence beside me. I turned and found the sinister shadow of Mr Gerry Adams.

"Ah, the Irish cousin!" I said, before remembering Jeeves' admonition to treat this Irish Johnny with caution. So I said nothing more.

"The trouble with pigs," said Gerry, "especially very large pigs, is that they get gas build-up. Enormous build-up of gas."

"He looked at me with innocent spectacles. There are times when a chap fervently wishes he had gone to play golf instead."

bad that the pig blows up. They can destroy a whole piggy. Bang! Just like that."

"Golly! A piggy blown up? Without warning?"

"You might get a coded telephone warning first," said Gerry, turning on me the full gaze of his unblinking spectacles. I didn't think I knew what a coded phone call was, so I thought I should change the subject pronto.

"Any idea who Polonius was?" I said, saying the first thing that came to my mind. "A man who was interfering and had to be got rid of," he said. Life seemed to lose its sparkle when this chap was talking. Of course I didn't know then who he was. Nor did I know that in the next few days the piggy would get blown up; that Jeeves would turn out to be an intelligence Johnny, and Kate an undercover agent, that Mr Adams would mysteriously vanish and that Lord Wolfram would be a broken-hearted he would try to borrow money off me.

There are times when a chap fervently wishes he had gone to play golf instead."

The sneers show Harman has a mighty task

Paradox: we will only be able to dispense with a Minister for Women on the day the appointment is not greeted by sour whingeing articles proclaiming that we don't need one.

On Harriet Harman's appointment as Britain's first cabinet Minister for Women, *The Daily Telegraph* said she represented "an outdated ideology and the fruits will be injustice, social tension and further family break-up". They made rude remarks about her legs, plus this resoundingly idiotic maxim: "If women can get to the North Pole without any help from the government, they surely don't need any help from Miss Harman to survive in Britain." So that's why we still need a Minister for Women. And the first women's minister not afraid to use the f-word: she calls herself a feminist.

How will she fight her corner? Naturally, she says she won't have to all being sweetness and light, for now. But she will "look over the shoulder" of all her cabinet colleagues, monitoring policies for their impact on women – and that will not make her popular. Every policy paper is already crossing her desk. Take last week someone in the Treasury flew a kite that the Government might re-integrate couples' incomes for tax purposes, as fall-out from merging the tax and benefit system. Imagine the headlines: Labour abolishes women's right to independent taxation! "It's just not on the agenda," Harriet Harman says crisply. "And it is not a necessary part of tax-benefit integration."

Indeed she is marching her department in the opposite direction. She has called for research on the distribution of income within families to show why women in couples drawing Income Support or the Job Seeker's Allowance should draw their own and their children's share independently. At present fathers or stepfathers draw the money and may not hand over enough. That would be a radical shift of most benefits, from wallet to handbag.

The poorest families are often not single mothers, but couples where the father keeps too much of the benefit for himself. Now that is the sort of change no male Secretary of State for Social Security was ever willing to contemplate.

Her big idea, on which she expects to be judged – is to get half-a-million single mothers out to work



Polly Toynbee

– on which she expects to be judged – is to get half-a-million single mothers out to work

public impact.

In elbowing her way to get women's issues on the agenda, she has a secret weapon. Anna Coote, the feminist thinker and her new adviser, will be the one to deliver it: her expertise is in citizens' juries and new ways to give democratic legitimacy to decision-making. Harman and Coote plan to enlist a huge bank of women of all kinds right across the country – ordinary women, not just the usual semi-moribund women's organisations. "It will be a genuine dialogue with large numbers of women. More women voted Labour than ever before at the election, but women distrust government and feel disconnected from it," Harman says. Establishing that contact – a kind of giant interactive focus group – will give her a huge advantage in bargaining for what women want, helping to keep the party in tune with its new female voters.

It is just as well that Harriet Harman was hard-baked in the political furnace when the row over her son's grammar school place very nearly sank her career. For she can expect considerable blow-torching from all sides – as can her advisers.

Take last week: when Anna Coote was appointed, a young reporter called Glen Owen from *The Times* had the cheek to call me to ask for the low-down on Coote. I told him to go and tell Peter Stothard, his editor, to get stuffed. But even so, just before I put the phone down, the man begged, "Couldn't you just tell me who Anna Coote lives with?" Now which newly-appointed male political adviser gets that treatment?

Labour basks in its female-friendly post-electoral glow. All those women MPs and Cherie Booth, too. But already there are dark mutterings about the maleness inside the lads' bunker. The key No 10 Policy Unit has 10 men and one woman, and Downing Street has its own all-boys' football team. When the frost on the cappuccino has blown away, there will have to be real hard benefits for women in all this.

effective civil disobedience campaign for years, will be girding its loins again when it hears this: if she can't make the present system work, she will change the law to make the formula for squeezing money from fathers more stringent. The Tories softened the formula in the face of father-fury but she is resolute: "It needs a cultural shift."

Her strength comes from knowing the way women live in her poverty-stricken constituency, Peckham in south London. Eyebrows will be raised when she says she will stop the hounding of co-habiting single mothers. "I want to say it doesn't matter what your relationship is with your boyfriend, what matters is what you can do. I want to take away the incentive to lie." That would be a revolution for many single mothers who live by subterfuge in fear of being shamed by neighbours.

What will she do with the Equal Opportunities Commission? It does not, alas, belong to her but to the Department for Education and Employment, though she says she will be involved. The clamping tight of lips suggests reform is likely, as the Labour Party has promised in the past. The EOC costs nearly £6m, has been exiled to Manchester and, under the Tories, has been plagued with a deliberately weak leadership to keep it quiet. It leaves away producing reports of minimal

Expect change here.

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It's OK to be glamorous, Mr Brown

Dressing to be dull does not help any sort of creed, says Richard D North

Tonight, Gordon Brown, the iron Chancellor, will don what he supposes to be the uniform of man of his station in life to address the Lord Mayor's annual Mansion House dinner. His insistence on wearing a lounge suit is of course an act of spectacular rudeness. Like everyone else at the dinner, Mr Brown is the Lord Mayor's guest and if he were yours or mine, and coming to a fancy dress party, we would expect him to abide by the rules. These were in any case relaxed last year in "the people's" direction from requiring proper evening wear (white tie and tails) to the more modern dinner jacket.

Mr Brown's act of petulance is of a piece with New Labour's puritanism, the party's main distinguishing feature. Smoking, hunting, betting and junk food have all been frowned on. Now, dressing up, is to be despised, as the party's historic agenda of theorising moral socialism completed its transformation into one of sermonising social moralism. They'll be banning plays next.

Mr Brown's gesture is doubly odd considering the real value of dressing for dinner. A caption for the V&A's *Cutting Edge* show about post-war British fashion remarks that evening wear has the merit of being durable. It is also cheap. In university halls up and down the country, young men whose families used to be working class are sitting down to rather dreadful evening meals in dinner jackets bought from Oxfam for less than 20 quid. They are learning frugality twice over: they will not need to buy another such suit pro-

vided they don't eat too much while wearing it.

The older these clothes are, the more likely they are to be exquisitely cut, but that will seldom be noted or matter. Average cut will do very well: this is clothing which strikes a blow for socialism because it is hard to spot the difference between Burton's and Savile Row. Men in dinner jackets look glamorous and are learning the peculiar alchemy by which a uniformity of dress – especially cunningly designed uniform – accentuates the wearer's individuality by drawing attention to the uniqueness of the face and any small affectation of decoration.

Doubtless Mr Brown thinks he is asserting something productive, serious, iconoclastic, and workmanlike in wearing his day clothes at the dinner. He would wear dungarees if he could, to show allegiance with the non-conformist producing and manufacturing classes against those Popish effete who merely trade money and who will provide his audience. But the National Portrait Gallery's Pursuit of Beauty exhibition, on the changing fashion in bodies and dress, points out that the Roundhead army of Ironsides contained hardly less popish men than its Royalist opponents. To dress in a dull way is not

necessarily to be serious, nor is the top always an idiot.

However, it is true that the killjoy is never far from the centre of affairs in British society. Northern Europeans always have to fight hard for moderation and freedom and pleasure against the dreariness and severity which blows southwards at us out

of grace are still with us, as generation after generation of men live in terror that glamour is the same as homosexuality. Actually, Jonathan Fryer, the author of a new study of Wilde, notes that for years no one equated Oscar's flamboyance with sexual deviance. Indeed, for most of history, men have cheerfully, gleefully even, dressed to kill. Roy Strong, whose stories are a chronicle in part of the only recent period when glamourousness for men was normal, says: "In the 1960s it was an expression of a kind of rebellion, but there was no connotation of homosexuality."

No one thought Mick Jagger was queer. All that is over, and we see the widespread affection of wearing football "strip" by perfectly nice men who like poetry and opera but are anxious to show they are not aesthetes really. It comes to something when intelligent people are *Fever Pitch*-forked into mimicking jobs because they themselves happen to have escaped from lives on peripheral estates, or were lucky enough never to have known them. The affection of sporting and motoring nobility is of course an attempt to find a masculine imagery, made by modern men who sense themselves robbed of the right to appear sensitive.



of the Arctic, via the Scotland of Messrs Brown, Blair and Cook (who endear at least by being a tipster). Unfortunately this century has had to fight harder than any other for the right of men to be good, serious and lively. The Roundhead and the Cavalier may each be caricatures, but they are fair enough symbols of a real contemporary battle between opposed moral and political forces. Tyranny by lounge suit is only the farcical expression of this real struggle.

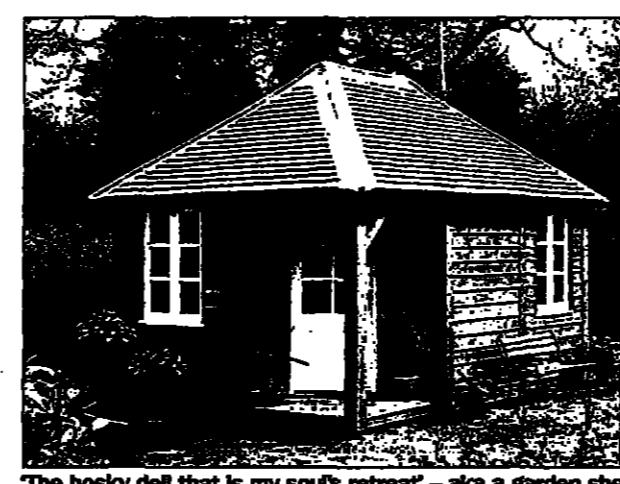
A hundred years ago last month, Oscar Wilde was released from Reading jail. The shock waves of his dis-



Grainne, model daughter of Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness

Rousseau, and bangs on about "the full significance of territory and shelter, the metaphysics of inside and outside" – and that's before he has found out the right way to hang in nail. It's a brilliant performance, doing for the humble outhouse what Richard Klein did for nicotine in *Cigarettes are Sublime*. And as far as I'm concerned, it's very timely. Because I lately acquired a shed myself, and have been too shy to tell the world of its wondrous qualities until now. Mr Pollan has, in one 300-page defence, legitimised shodophilia.

Mine comes from a Worcester-based outfit called Courtyard Designs. The people who run it are rather sweetly determined that the word "shed" is too *declassé* to be used in its brochures or on its salesmen's lips. Thus you have a choice of "pavilions", "summerhouses", "classic outbuildings" and "garden offices". No huts. No sheds. No lean-to. No potting sh... But you get the picture. My abominable office looks like this (*see below*) only with a spectacular camouflage of lilac, ash and poplar leaves. It's got a little porch, on which you sit reading the papers on sunny mornings. There is, alas, not enough room to erect a swing or



The bosky dell that is my soul's retreat – aka a garden shed

rocking chair for the full Louisiana-geriatric effect, but it's a thought. Inside there are recessed spotlights, three telephone lines, unprinted power points, take the computer, the fax, the ghetto-blaster, the mini-bar (four bottles of Chardonnay) and the Vax machine. Along the 15-foot back wall there are eight shelves of paperbacks (not included in the price).

The heater turns the air into Tropical Swamp in minutes. The carpet is mid-Aegean blue with occasional, characterful striations of mud. The ficus plant in the corner...

When the thing is first built, you experience a worry that you're, in effect, packing yourself off, every evening, to a well-upholstered dog kennel. But as you sit reflectively at midnight, reading in a dreamy spiral of Marlboro Lights and middle-period Van Morrison, you look through the dark at the lit windows of home and experience for a second what I expect Neil Armstrong felt on looking back at Planet Earth, and you think no more about incarceration. On sunny afternoons, with the thrush whistling what sounds like Sibelius in the laburnum, the bushes rustling like cowpokes, the children sitting on the desk talking about holidays and the distant mutter of Irish builders drifting in through your open windows, it all gets very Keatsian. God knows what Mr Pollan (or Thoreau) would make of the bosky dell that is now my soul's retreat: but you don't need metaphors in Paradise. You just need a device for getting wasps out of the inkjet printer.

You hear a lot about the dubious additives in food these days. You hear awful warnings about the sudden rise in cannibalism across the rougher bits of Africa.

Might it be time to ask the new MP for mid-Ulster his views on the ride-up-your-leg qualities of Thai silk?

john walsh

Spurred on by David Blunkett, you worry about the nutritional value of the things your children are eating. But nothing in your wildest dreams of monosodium glutamate prepares you for what they seem to put into German chocolate. I discovered this latest abomination, from the Ritter Sport range, in my local Tesco the other day. And I include it here (*below*), calmly and without comment, for your inspection. "Extra" indeed...

A friend of mine decided last week, to lobby members of Parliament on the subject of adoption. She wrote a letter to send to all 660-odd MPs, and left it to her secretary to address the envelopes. Later in the day, her secretary – a devout Irish Catholic woman – came to her with a heartfelt plea. "Please," she said, "don't make me write to the Sinn Fein lot. My husband would never forgive me."

Well, of course, my friend agreed that she could make an exception when it came to canvassing the Republican tendency. It does seem a little irrelevant, she said, asking them for their views about the legal niceties of adoption. But then again, she said (and I agreed with enthusiasm), why not? Wouldn't it be interesting to see if a party

wholly devoted to sectarian politics had a policy about everyday things? How fascinating it would be to attend a Sinn Fein rally and yell, during a lull in the speeches, "Mister Adams – where exactly do you stand on creche facilities?" Now that Martin McGuinness's 21-year-old daughter, Grainne (*top picture*), has been considering a career in fashion modelling, it might be the time to ask the MP for mid-Ulster if he holds strong views on the ride-up-your-leg qualities of *Thai silk* and *chiffon*.

This is not a plea for irrelevance, more a recognition that people's lives are more multifarious than



nominate "the prince of cheeses". And it was Tony Benn, no less, who advised me years ago that when meeting people from an arena of success, you should always talk to them about something quite unconnected with it. He always did, apparently. Okay, I said, say you've just met, ooh, General Schwarzkopf. What do you say to him? "I should ask him," said Benn, "where he gets his collars made."

Dear Arthritis People...

Dear Arthritis People,
I am nine years old and have Arthritis. I don't have it badly but it is very painful sometimes. At school I have just organised a bring and buy sale. We raised fifty five pounds and four pence. Every little bit of it is going to your charity. I hope it helps.
Love Libby Clark.

Grove Road Primary

This is a real letter from one of our youngest fund raisers. Libby is one of over 11 million people in Britain today who know just how painful arthritis and rheumatism can be.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research is the only major UK charity financing medical research into all aspects of arthritis and rheumatic diseases in Britain today. Libby used her spare time to help us. Can you help us too?

Please send me: Your FREE Legacy Information Pack
Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Enclosed: £1 £47 £19 in gift of £_____

Please send an Information Pack

To: The Arthritis & Rheumatism Council, FREEPOST, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7BR.

Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research - finding the cure

A Registered Charity No. 210712

YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME

business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Government seeks union advice on windfall tax pitfalls

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

The Government has sought advice from the country's largest union on how to stop privatised utilities cutting costs in order to pay the windfall tax. The proposals from the £1.3 million strong public service union Unison ranged from exaltation through tax breaks to outright compulsion.

The union is concerned that some

of the utilities are prepared to lower the standards of customer service and make employees redundant in order to offset the burden of the levy.

As fresh evidence of the Government's readiness to take on board the views of unions in framing policies towards business, Whitehall officials asked Unison for suggestions on how cost-cutting could be avoided.

In a letter to the Treasury, Mike Jeram, head of energy at the union, says that full protection for em-

ployees would require special provision in the legislation. The law would need to give ministers or a regulator the power to make "enforceable directions" where the tax is thought to have resulted directly or indirectly in redundancies.

Mr Jeram however accepts that such a provision might prove difficult for the Government. An alternative might be an attempt to exercise influence over the companies by "making the appropriate

statement in the House" – a suggestion which the Government might feel is the least expensive and controversial.

Another method would be to offer companies rebates on the tax if they protected existing employment levels and recruited new staff, possibly trainees. This approach would give the companies incentive not to reduce their current staffing levels and to develop security packages for their employees" Mr Jeram said.

There was a sting in the tail for companies however. Mr Jeram said the rebate policy would allow the Government to pitch the levy at a higher level on the grounds that companies had been offered the means to reduce their share.

The Unison official said the union could develop the idea, in conjunction with the Trade Union Research Unit at Ruskin College, Oxford, if the Treasury thought it had merit.

Speaking at Unison's annual con-

ference in Brighton this week, Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the union, warned the government that it would be a "nonsense" to impose the levy to create 250,000 jobs for the unemployed, if it led to redundancies in companies on which it was imposed. He urged ministers to ensure that some of the tax was diverted to protect jobs in the public sector.

Details of the tax – expected to raise at least £5 billion – are to be revealed in Gordon Brown's first Budget on 2 July.

Under the Government's strategy of European-style "social partner-

ITV should be one company, says Robinson

Cathy Newman

The nine ITV companies will need to merge into a single operating group within a decade, according to Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group, the leisure and media company which is seeking to dominate Channel 3 broadcasting.

After a week of talks and mergers in the television industry, Mr Robinson said yesterday he believed one company would, within 10 years, control ITV in order to compete with the increasingly cut-throat television market.

He added: "If ITV were started now it would look a ludicrous and costly structure to compete with Sky, Channel 4 and Channel 5."

He added that the Government had so far taken a "freer, more logical stance on media ownership". Mr Robinson, who is a firm Labour supporter, said the new Government had taken a very sensible attitude towards relaxing current legislation, which prevents companies owning more than 15 per cent of the UK's total television audience.

However, a spokesman for the Department of National Heritage, poured cold water on Mr Robinson's comments, and said: "There is no immediate imperative to change the current media ownership regulations. It's hard to see how a single licence holder could deliver diversity."

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, backed Mr Robinson's claims that the UK needed to foster a "strong, vibrant" television industry controlled by sizeable players. He said ITV should mirror the

structure of Channel 5, with major operators taking stakes in a single holding company.

City analysts had mixed views about Granada's moves. Anthony de Larraga, media analyst at PaineWebber, said: "I'm sure Michael Green [chairman of Carlton Communications] thinks the same thing and wants to be boss as well. If the Independent Television Commission wanted one commercial mainstream licence it would have created it. But the ITC

If ITV were started now it would look a ludicrous and costly structure to compete with the others

hasn't decided to abandon the regional structure of Channel 3."

However, Mathew Horsman, media analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, said "at some point down the road" there would be an "ITV plc". He added: "The inability of the franchises to work together has held ITV back. At some point there will be a single proposition to compete against the national Channel 4 and Channel 5 franchises." Mr Horsman added that the restructuring and appointment of a chief executive at ITV Network Centre signalled the first steps towards a single Channel 3 company.

Granada's comments come a few days after it announced it was in talks with its neighbouring franchise, Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television. Sources said yesterday that Granada would want to save around £20m over two years if the deal with Yorkshire went ahead. The majority of Yorkshire's production facilities would remain at Leeds, according to Mr Robinson.

His enthusiasm for further integration followed swiftly on the heels of Tuesday's £105m merger of Scottish Television and Grampian Television. One analyst suggested that Mr Robinson and Gus Macdonald, chairman of Scottish Media Group and also a Labour supporter, had proceeded with merger talks only after "sound out" the Government's views on further consolidation.

Unveiling a 33 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional items to £243m for the 26 weeks to the end of March, Mr Robinson said the company would invest £300m in TV channels and programming in the next five years. Analysts said Granada was attempting to signal to the stock market that it was not achieving the rating it deserved considering the size of its media holdings.

Mr Robinson kept his options open on a demerger of the group's media operations. He said that while Granada would not be spinning off its media division in the short term, the company would always keep it in mind as a possibility.

Granada saw operating profits on last year's Forte acquisition soar 351 per cent, from £25.8m to £116.4m.

Announcing pre-tax profits of £264.8m for the year to April,

Comment, page 25

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Comment, page 25

Unemployment down to 1.6 million

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Headline unemployment fell to a seven-year low of just over 1.6 million in May. But the decline was the smallest for nine months as the distortion caused by the introduction of the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) dropped out of the figures. The smaller-than-expected fall, along with figures showing unchanged growth in earnings in the year to April, eased analysts' fears that the tighter job market would lead to higher inflation.

The reassurance came on the eve of the Chancellor's Mansion House speech, in which he is expected to flesh out earlier indications that the inflation target will be at least as tough as the present 2.5 per cent ceiling. "The message to the Bank of England is keep your finger on the interest-rate trigger but don't squeeze yet," said Adam Cole, UK economist at James Capel.

Andrew Smith, Employment Minister, yesterday welcomed the

latest decline in the number of unemployment benefit claimants but said there was still "much to do" on the joblessness front.

The Treasury is considering how to implement the Government's manifesto pledge to create a fully independent statistical office, as part of the comprehensive spending review announced by the chief secretary, Alistair Darling, yesterday. Such a body would be free to replace the discredited claimant count measure of unemployment.

The more reliable, survey-based measure of unemployment has also shown a faster rate of improvement, falling by 111,000 in November-February, compared to a 184,000

drop in the claimant measure in the same months.

Other statistics in yesterday's batch confirmed the pick-up during the past year. Employment showed a robust increase of 86,000 in the first quarter, and all were full-time jobs. The number of people in Government training schemes fell by 10,000 to 180,000, the lowest in 12 years.

The jobs figures fit into the broad picture of strong growth in the economy, but reassured the financial markets that the overheating would not get out of hand.

The labour market data look far less threatening to the inflation target than they did two months ago, said John O'Sullivan of NatWest Markets.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 18,400 in May, compared to a drop of 56,400 in April.

Equally important to the City was the unchanged rate of growth in underlying average earnings. This stayed at 4.5 per cent in April for the third month running.

An undisclosed payment to the CWS, thought to be around £1m, was included in a £9.2m exceptional charge that also covered the costs of a strategi-

Hambros report into Co-op bid may not be made public

Tom Stevenson

The truth about Hambros's role in Andrew Regan's failed bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) may never emerge after Sir Chips Keswick, chief executive, said yesterday an independent investigation by solicitors Norton Rose might not be made public.

He said the report was expected by the end of the month but might only be seen by the bank and its regulators.

He was speaking as Hambros, one of the City's last remaining independent investment banks, reported more than tripled pre-tax profits of £64.7m (£20.6m) for the year to March, mainly thanks to a £35m turnaround at the group's 52 per cent-owned Hambros Countrywide chain of estate agents.

Turning to the results, Sir Chips admitted that profits from the core banking business remained "inadequate" and said he remained committed to seeing a return to "satisfactory and sustainable" returns. Profits of £10m from banking were

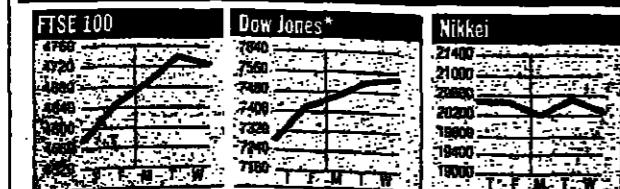
sharp higher than the previous year's £500,000 but they represented an underlying fall before lower bad debt provisions from £36.7m to £20.4m. The return on capital in the business was at least three times too low, Sir Chips said.

Hambros Countrywide returned a profit of £31m compared to the previous year's £4m loss as the number of transactions handled by the group rose by 28 per cent, much better than the 9 per cent volume increase in the market as a whole.

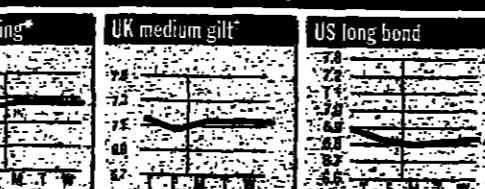
Investment profits slipped from the previous year's record profit of £28.8m to £25.2m while Insurance Services reaped marginally from £11.1m to £10.9m.

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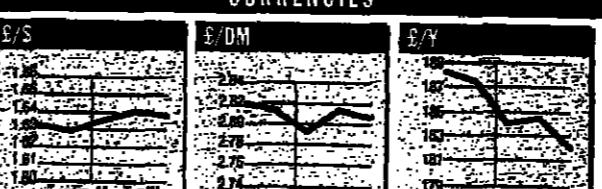
STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES



CURRENCIES



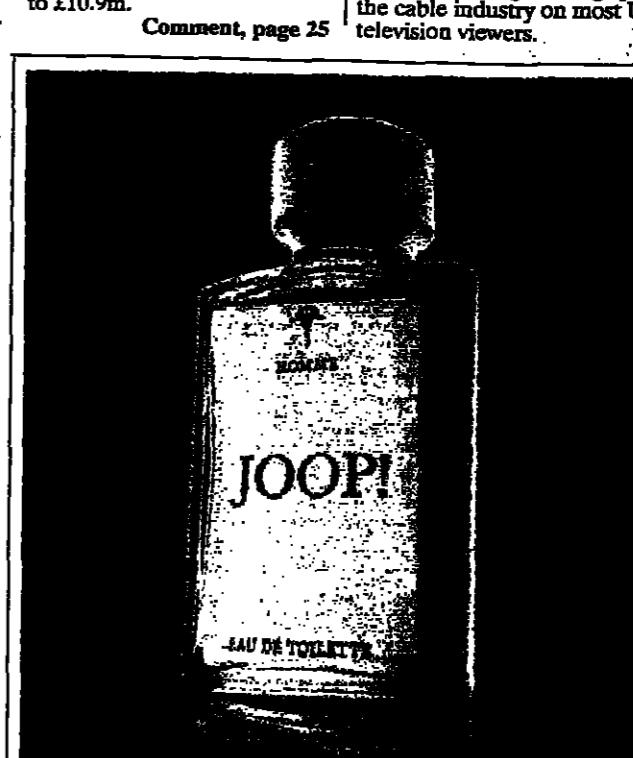
MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Index	Price	Change	Chg %	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4724.80	-14.80	-0.3	4739.60	4056.60	3.48
FTSE 250	4505.95	+9.60	+0.2	4729.40	4462.00	3.63
FTSE 350	2262.30	-1.90	-0.2	2287.20	2017.90	3.51
FTSE SmallCap	2261.10	+1.73	+0.1	2374.20	2178.29	3.09
FTSE All-Share	2237.85	-0.31	-0.2	2242.16	1989.78	3.48
New York *	7555.13	+15.86	+0.2	7539.27	5032.94	1.70
TOKYO	20289.93	-242.62	-1.2	2061.56	17303.95	0.601
Hong Kong	1442.52	-18.19	-0.1	1490.90	12055.17	2.981
Frankfurt	3677.43	+12.42	+0.3	3695.28	2846.77	4.01

Source: FT Information

OTHER INDICATORS

Indicator	Yesterday	Today's close	Year Ago	Index	Last	Latest	Yr Ago	Week Ago
Oil Brent \$	17.73	+0.05	18.03	RPI	156.7	+2.4pc	150.5	19 Jun
Gold \$	344.05	+0.00	384.20	GDP	109.7	+2.6pc	107.0	25 Jul
Gold £	210.16	+0.28	250.21	Base Rates	-	-	6.25pc	-



كذا من الأصل

pitfalls

News Corp signs satellite TV deal

David Osborne



COMMENT

'No other Government had achieved a comprehensive inventory before, Mr Darling said. This is technically true, but the minister must have had his fingers crossed behind his back'

A radio-based telecoms contender set up five years ago is signing up customers fast. Michael Harrison reports

Ionica set for £625m float to do battle with BT

Ionica, the company that is setting up a rival domestic telephone network to British Telecom based on innovative radio technology, is going public next month through a stock market flotation that will value the business at £625m.

The company, formed five years ago by a science graduate from Imperial College, intends to raise £125m through a listing in London and New York. About 20 per cent of the company will be offered to investors. At the same time Ionica plans to raise a further £200m in debt to help build out its network, taking the total amount raised so far to £670m.

The company's 350 shareholders, who include Yorkshire Electricity, Northern Electric, 3i and a number of other venture capitalists, investment trusts and banks, have agreed not to sell any of their shares. In addition, Ionica's eight largest shareholders have signed a lock-in agreement which prevents them selling any shares for a year after the flotation.

The flotation will make Nigel Playford, Ionica's chief executive, worth £31.5m on paper. He will hold a stake of 5 per cent after the offer. Mr Playford and Ionica's four other executive directors who together started the business in 1992, own 7.3 per cent of the company. The 800 staff own a further 3 per cent.

The Cambridge-based company began offering a service to residential and small business customers in the Anglia region a year ago and extended its service to the Midlands in February. So far it has 1.2 million homes passed and has achieved a connection rate of nearly 3 per cent.

Despite Mr Playford's scientific background and Ionica's high-technology image, the company's main focus of attention is on a high-profile saturation marketing campaign. Its advertising budget, at £20m this year compares with the £150m BT spends but BT has 27 million customers. Two-thirds of its customers

compete not with the cable companies but with BT. Its charges are fixed at 10 per cent below those of BT. Each time BT cuts its charges, Ionica follows suit.

"Although price is part of the message, there is no point just marketing yourself as a cheap telephone company. We sell

customers, Ionica has approached the market the other way around. It operates a local loop and plugs its calls into whichever trunk operator is offering the best and most competitive service."

Mr Playford is not worried by about BT's campaign to win back

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merely to planning one, Mr Playford is aware of the pitfalls that may lie ahead.

But as he surveys the landscape, he cannot spot any obvious disaster waiting to happen. "When we started in 1992 we had no technology, no money, no staff, no customers, no interconnection and no number portability. Now we can tick every one of those boxes. If we do no more than we are doing now we will do fantastically well."

As Ionica prepares for the

scrutiny that goes with a public listing and adjusts to the demands imposed by actually running a business as opposed

to being a start-up, Mr Playford is aware of the pitfalls that may lie ahead.

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business

Evans plans float of investment trust

Sameena Ahmad

Chris Evans, the whirling dervish of the biotechnology world, yesterday announced the flotation of his fourth company, Reabourne Merlin Life Sciences Investment Trust, to be valued at around £50m.

RMLIT, which published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, will invest in life science companies in the UK and Europe.

Mr Evans, who also founded quoted groups Celsis, ChiroScience and Load and Merlin Fund which specialises in taking private biotechs to flotation, said: "This is the first exclusively European life sciences trust. We at Merlin are working with a number of companies to make wise investment decisions we are."

Mr Evans said that RMLIT gave him and his team at Merlin an opportunity to offer their knowledge of the quoted sector to larger institutions. "Though my strength is in unquoted companies, I have experience across the industry which is going to waste," said Mr Evans.

who will be a principal adviser in the trust. He added that the trust had to be publicly floated because it would be difficult to attract large institutional funds into an unquoted vehicle.

Other directors include John Scater, chairman of RMLIT and also at Foreign & Colonial, and Anthony Townsend, chairman of Rea Brothers and a director at Reabourne, a joint venture with Finsbury Asset Management.

At least three quarters of the placing proceeds will be invested in quoted life science companies, with a fifth committed to Mr Evans' Merlin Fund. The placing price has been set at 100p a share and dealings will begin on 23 June.

Separately, directors at Galen, which also published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, and Irish academia will be quick in the 30-year-old drug development to services group floats on the UK stock market in July valued at £180m. The company is coming to the main market in a placing and is raising around £30m of fresh money.

Allen McClay, Galen's chairman whose 33 per cent personal stake could be worth £50m, plans to donate 6 per cent of the group's existing share capital to a charitable trust to fund research at his alma mater, the Queen's University of Belfast.

The new trust will sell around 1 per cent of the ordinary shares to provide initial funds for research at the University's Schools of Chemistry and Pharmacy. Other Galen directors also stand to gain. The 20 per cent stake of John King, chief executive, could be worth around £36m and Geoffrey Elliot, finance director will own just under 10 per cent.

Mr King said: "We are different from anything that exists in the sector today. We are profitable and have always funded our needs from internal cash flow. This will add to our own funds."

Galen's activities range from developing prescription medicines to providing drug companies with services such as clinical trial supplies. Dealings will begin in mid July.

Waddington makes £4m from society conversions

Magnus Grimond

Waddington, the consumer packaging to plastic plates group, has revealed its own £4m windfall from building society conversions and flotation this year. The group, one of the largest junk mail printers in the country, reckons this is the value of sales it has won providing the prospectuses and leaflets mailed out to millions of savers, borrowers and policy holders in mutual organisations converting to plc status.

Martin Buckley, chief executive, said the group was probably the largest integrated provider of services, from printing and stuffing envelopes to manipulating computer databases of direct mail target customers, in a business growing at more than 20 per cent a year.

Waddington did part of the printing and handled all the data processing for more than 9 million customers mailed ahead of time.

Earnings per share on the same basis rose 21 per cent to 21.6p, and a final dividend of 6p raised the total payment for the year by 11 per cent to 10.4p.

The figures were well received by the stock market, which pushed the shares 25p higher to 297.5p. Francesca Raleigh, an analyst at Panmure Gordon, suggested Waddington had shrugged off its reputation for finding banana skins. It was now one of handful of stocks in the paper and packaging sector where the growth story remained intact. She has raised her profits forecast for the current year by £1m to £37m.

All four divisions raised profits, although the biggest, the cartons operation, continued to be restrained by problems in the UK. The group moved in February to cut costs and introduce 24-hour-a-day working but the business has been hit by a cut in demand from big customers, which include Bird's Eye.

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Even so, British Land has been no slouch at turning over the portfolio. 90 per cent of which has been acquired in the last eight years. The latest fund raising takes the war chest to £1bn, but with

British Land profits from deals

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

corporate action currently ruled out, this looks more like an opportunistic move to take advantage of low interest rates. Meanwhile, NAV forecasts of 580p for the current year suggest the shares remain reasonable value.

Meyer moves into recovery phase

It has been a long time coming, but the £23m restructuring at Meyer International, the timber importer and building materials group, is finally paying off. Though turnover at £1.14bn was 7 per cent down in the year to March, operating profits advanced 12 per cent to £47.4m and pre-tax profits were 21 per cent ahead at £45.4m. Underlying earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 23.5p. The market was further cheered by positive noises on trading in the first few months of this year and the group's shares rose 16p to 431p.

Meyer is still getting no real help from the housing market, which started picking up in the second half of last year and which typically takes six

months to filter through to the business. But rising softwood prices are benefiting the group. Having crashed by around 35 per cent last year, prices bounced around 44 per cent in the year. That, and a shift away from planks to more finished items like window frames, left operating profits in the timber division up over 100 per cent to £10.3m on flatish sales of £208m.

The benefits of the revamp of the Jewson builder's merchant outlets have still to come through. Sales from that division rose just 2 per cent to £443m and profits dropped £3m to £22m, largely as a result of disruption from refurbishment. Alan Peterson, who will become chief executive after John Dobby retires, said the group lost £16m in sales volume over eight weeks as the shops were re-kitted. Meyer is rightly trying to add value to nuts, bolts and nails. The group has Dulux paint centres in 47 of its shops and hires out equipment like generators and drills in 120. Supplying bathrooms and kitchens should also be a money spinner.

Meyer is also talking confidently about expanding – buying family-run merchants and building its stronger US side. Including net cash, the group could spend £115m and still be comfortably geared at 30 per cent. House brokers BZW are forecasting profits of £56m for the current financial year, which would put the shares on 15 times forward earnings. That doesn't look too expensive, given the potential for the housing market and, more importantly, the repair and maintenance market to lead a helping hand. Buy for recovery.

Robert Wiseman milks its position

Helped by its dominant market position in Scotland and lack of exposure to the declining doorstep milk delivery market, Robert Wiseman Dairies has proved to be one of the best performers in a difficult dairy sector. Its shares have doubled since 1994, a period when rivals such as Northern Foods have been distracted by rationalisation in their doorstep milk operations as the market struggles to cope with over-capacity.

Wiseman has managed to avoid the agony as it never had any significant doorstep operation in the first place. It has concentrated more on supermarket customers supplied through state of the art plants in Scotland, and more recently Manchester, as it attacks the market south of the border.

For shareholders, the question is whether the shares have run far enough. Yesterday's full-year results were the first since its hawkish acquisition of £4.8m worth of assets from the Scottish Pride business, which collapsed into receivership in February.

Pre-tax profits were 37.5 per cent

ahead at £11.9m. This was after a £360,000 charge for re-organisation costs relating to the Scottish Pride deal completed in March, just a couple of weeks before the company's year end.

Volumes were ahead due to new supermarket business and the additional volumes from Scottish Pride. The company has also acquired a further 7.4 acres of land at the Manchester plant site to develop the production facilities.

On the down side, operating margins were cut from 7 per cent to 6.6 per cent due to pressure on bulk cream and liquid milk prices. The better news is that raw milk input prices are easing.

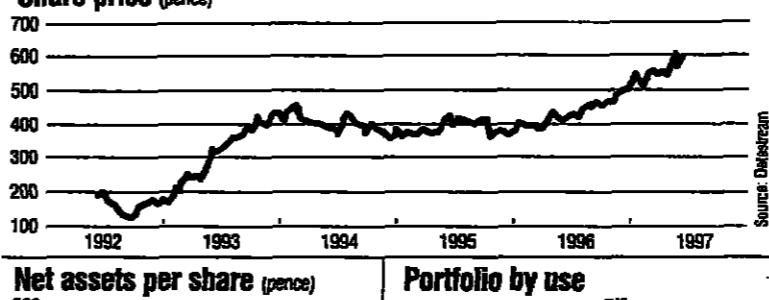
Robert Wiseman ought to be one of the beneficiaries of the expected shake-out in the dairy sector as buying prices should fall and selling prices rise. But the shares – unchanged at 196.5p yesterday – had such a good run that they now trade on a forward rating of more than 14, a substantial premium to rivals Unigate and Northern Foods. A bit too expensive for now.

British Land: At a glance

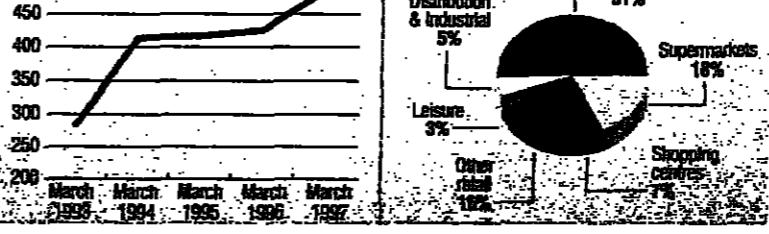
Market value: £2.75bn, share price 588.5p

Five-Year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Net Rental Income (£m)	119	126	157	208	260
Pre-tax profits (£m)	27.2	53.9	49.1	62.1	91.2
Earnings per share (p)	8.4	11.4	8.4	11.2	15.7
Dividends per share (p)	7.0	7.53	8.12	8.55	9.0

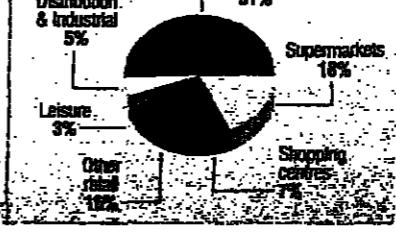
Share price (pence)



Net assets per share (pence)



Portfolio by use



GWR to lobby over licence limits

Cathy Newman

GWR Group, the radio operator, is to lobby Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, for a relaxation of the rules on UK radio ownership.

Henry Meakin, GWR's chairman, said yesterday that the group would be meeting with Mr Smith "in due course" to discuss ways in which the current points system – which allows any one operator a maximum 15 per cent share of the UK audience – could be changed.

Mr Meakin said GWR's 14.9 per cent share of the audience prevented it from acquiring further licences in the UK, and it has therefore been forced to focus on acquisitions overseas.

The radio company will also confront Mr Smith about allowing commercial radio companies to compete more effectively with the BBC. Unlike commercial radio stations, BBC stations do not have to comply with the "Promise of Performance" in the Broadcasting Act, which requires them to stick to promises on content and audience profile made at the time of applying for licences.

Commercial radio stations have consistently argued that BBC stations can unfairly change their remit in response to competition.

GWR yesterday announced that it was to sell its St Albans-based radio station, 96.6FM, to Essex Radio for £725,175 in cash and Independent Radio News shares. GWR's chief executive, Ralph Bernard, said as he unveiled a 41 per cent increase in underlying earnings for the 18 months to the end of March, that Classic FM had moved into profit since GWR bought it last August. Mr Bernard said he anticipated first profits from London News Radio later this month.

He added that, following the merger of Capital Radio and Virgin Radio Holdings and Capital's subsequent withdrawal from its sales operation, Media Sales and Marketing, GWR had decided to take its own national sales in-house. MSM represented all of GWR's stations except Classic FM.

IN BRIEF

AT&T campaign targets freephone users

AT&T the US phone giant, intensified its assault on the British market with a multi-million pound advertising campaign backed a push to poach freephone business customers from British Telecom. From Monday phone customers using freephone 0800 numbers will be able to switch to AT&T without changing their number. AT&T released research showing 60 per cent of British firms were unaware that so-called freephone number portability was to become available from next week. It said a similar change in the US had fuelled a boom in freephone numbers.

Euromoney pays £4.5m for Mondiale stake

Euromoney Publications is paying up to £4.5m for a 40 per cent interest in Mondiale Corp, a UK publishing company specialising in the business to business international office products market. The total sum is dependent on 1997 results. Euromoney said Mondiale is the market leader in its sector. It also publishes the magazine *Office Products International*. Mondiale made pre-tax profits after exceptions of £486,700 last year on sales of £1.6m.

Biocompatibles buys German group

Biocompatibles International, the medical coatings group whose shares have risen by a factor of almost 10 in the last two years, is buying a German urology group in a £5.5m all shares deal. It is acquiring Urotech Medizintechnische Technologies, which manufactures products such as catheters and heart stents. However, Biocompatibles shares ended lower yesterday on its annual statement. It said that while sales of cardiovascular products were ahead, those of Proclear replacement contact lenses had slowed.

P&O confident of merger compromise

The P&O shipping group said it was "confident" it could reach a compromise with the European Commission over its plans to merge ferry services with rival Stena Line. The comments came after the Commission confirmed it had serious doubts about whether it could clear the proposal to merge ferry services on routes between Dover and Calais, Newhaven and Dieppe, and Dover and Zeebrugge. P&O said it would be able to meet the objections, which involve separating the running and marketing of the merged services from other, separate P&O and Stena operations.

Chemring shares up despite losses

Chemring, the troubled defence products to lifejackets group, saw its shares soar 22.5p to 100p yesterday, despite announcing a plunge to first-half losses of £13.1m from profits of £4.47m before.

Chemring said it expected to return an operating profit in the second half and resume a "reasonable" level of earnings next year.

Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Bridgford Property (F)	50.3m (49.1m)	29.1m (25.8m)	13.29 (11.89)	8.42p (2.9p)
Bridgford Water (F)	67.2m (65.2m)	13.8m (12.1m)	14.32 (12.52)	5.25p (2.1p)
British Land (F)	(-)	91.2m (82.1m)	15.72 (13.22)	9.00p (4.1p)
Chelmer Group (F)	31.2m (40.9m)	-13.1m (4.47m)	-5.56 (0.28)	2.78p (2.78p)
CMG Microsystems (F)	18.2m (17.2m)	1.5m (1.51m)	8.49 (6.55p)	8.10 (5.19)
Dominic Electrical (F)	32.6m (25.2m)	1.9m (1.45m)	7.25 (5.26p)	0.75 (0.55)
Emerson Holdings (F)	15.1m (13.2m)	0.28m (0.25m)	1.16 (1.09)	0.56 (+0.56)
European Colour (F)	23.4m (19.9m)	3.91m (2.00m)	5.82p (5.01m)	2.4p (2.2p)
Exxon (F)	105.5m (92.2m)	10.2m (8.1m)	1.12 (0.98)	1.00 (0.80)
Fisons Foodcare (F)	6.80m (6.65m)	0.40m (0.35m)	0.44p (0.35p)	0.92p (-)
Granada Group (F)	2.02m (1.51m)	0.24m (0.19m)	12.29 (10.19)	4.03p (4.225p)
GWA Group (F)	63.0m (59.1m)	12.0m (12.0m)	18.69 (18.39)	2.78p (2.49p)

Investing in the school system will not pay off for decades



Diane Coyle

In the UK, the average premium a college degree adds to weekly earnings is between 12 and 22 per cent for men and 38 to 42 per cent for women

What's so great about education? The Government has driven home the lesson that this is its top priority, but the lecture has the ring of motherhood and apple pie. It is fair to ask, in a spirit of intelligent enquiry, how exactly education boosts the economy and how it enhances fairness and opportunity.

Evidence from across the Atlantic about past improvements in the US school system sheds fascinating light on how much advances in individuals' skills contribute to economic growth and changes in earnings inequality.* The conclusions are that the big E has played more of a part than previously supposed in establishing America's economic dominance, and it can make an enormous difference to earnings differentials. The drawback is that the effects have to be assessed over decades – this is no quick fix.

The research, by Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz at the National Bureau of Economic Research, looks at the spread of high school education in the early part of this century. Only about 10 per cent of young Americans graduated from high school – or preparatory school, rather – in 1910. By 1940 this had risen to 50 per cent.

During this period the modern secondary school was virtually invented in America. "By the 1950s youths in the United States were three decades ahead of their British counterparts in terms of high school enrolment and graduation rates," write Goldin and Katz.

Like all economies, this is a tale of demand and supply, the demand for and supply of the skills needed in the workforce. Demand for skill depends on the kind of capital equipment businesses need their employees to work with and how they work with it, so changes in demand are determined by technical developments and investment. Supply of skill depends on the education system.

The technical changes introduced during the Industrial Revolution tended to deskill the workforce, requiring factory fodder rather than artisans and crafts-

men. By contrast, during the 1910s and 1920s, the spread of electricity led to a profusion of processes that required new skills, such as knowledge of chemistry and machine drawing. In addition, goods ranging from cars and radios to refrigerators and office calculators

boosted the need for a wider spread of skills. The productivity gains permitted by the new technologies could not have been realised without improved education.

Yet the return to education in terms of the extra wage premium somebody could expect for completing high school fell sharply between the turn of the century and the late 1920s even as productivity and average earnings rose steadily. The return to a year of secondary education for the average male declined from about 22 per cent to 12 per cent. The reason was the more than commensurate increase in the supply of skills thanks to the high school movement. The decline in returns to education continued in the years after the Second World War, resulting in a very noticeable reduction in income inequality.

Goldin and Katz have recalculated the increase in the US's stock of educational capital between 1910 and 1950 based on new data. They find that the increase in years of schooling of the workforce was greater than earlier work indicated.

"The increase in the US educational stock was a major contributor to American growth across much of the 20th century. Education's role in economic growth may have been larger than previously thought," they conclude.

The pattern has changed during the past 30 years. Productivity growth, in the US and elsewhere, has slowed sharply even though average years of education have continued to climb. At the same time incomes have started to become more unequal. There is widespread evidence that the returns to education for individuals are once more high

and increasing. In the UK, according to research by the IFS**, the average premium a college degree adds to weekly earnings is between 12 and 22 per cent for men and 38 to 42 per cent for women.

The explanation for this pattern – slower growth, greater earnings inequality – is probably an increase in demand for skills unmatched by an increase in supply.

There is good reason to believe information technology requires cleverer people to work with it. But the supply of educational attainment has not increased in the same way as it did earlier this century.

The clear conclusion is that boosting the national investment in education will have the desired results. Past experience suggests a more skilled workforce does boost economic growth when technology changes in such a way that extra skills are required to make best use of it. In addition, boosting the supply of skills tends to reduce earnings differentials. The big increase in inequality that the US and Britain have suffered is the result of the restriction of educational improvement to a privileged minority.

Unfortunately, confirming the diagnosis does not make the cure easy. For instance, there is the issue of how to improve the education system and the quality of its output. The other important point is that these kinds of shift in levels of skill in the workforce take decades to achieve. If our school system improved substantially tomorrow the full effect would not show until today's infants joined the workforce in 2020. All credit to the Labour government for making education its top three priorities, but we will not see the results until well into the next century.

The pattern has changed during the past 30 years. Productivity growth, in the US and elsewhere, has slowed sharply even though average years of education have continued to climb. At the same time incomes have started to become more unequal. There is widespread evidence that the returns to education for individuals are once more high

men. By contrast, during the 1910s and 1920s, the spread of electricity led to a profusion of processes that required new skills, such as knowledge of chemistry and machine drawing. In addition, goods ranging from cars and radios to refrigerators and office calculators

which has bought exclusive rights to advertise in public loos of all places, the spiritual home of writers of rude rhymes from Kilroy onwards. Cari Pickford, a former assistant manager of Duran Duran, who runs CPA has already signed up 2,000 sites mainly in London and the South-East. He tells me that outdoor poster advertising may well have reached saturation point, but indoor pub advertising is an open book, a blank sheet of paper so to speak.

It can deliver a captive audience for anything from 30 seconds to 3.5 minutes according to scientific research, and can target men and women separately. The first Guinness ads will include a rather risqué slogan based on the hokey-cokey lyrics: In, out, shake it all about etc. The company will service its sites regularly and think it has the answer to all those jokers who think they can gild the lily while they strain the greens. I sense a challenge.

For the less energetically inclined the Rita B Salon offers a gent's haircut at \$40, a woman's haircut and styling for \$60.

Colouring costs \$60 and highlights \$90. Cheapest item on the menu is a nail polish change at \$15. A full hour's body massage will set you back \$60, but a chair massage is just \$1 a minute.

I hear with a barely concealed sense of outrage that Guinness of all people have signed a contract with Carl Pickford & Associates, the specialist advertising company

Arise, Sir Jürgen, as UK honours Siemens chief

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Jürgen Gehrels: History revisited for Siemens in the UK

before the Chancellor chose the same date for his first Budget. Lunches at the Guildhall are not lightly cancelled so the organisers are promising to bring proceedings to an end by 2.15pm so analysts can get back to their posts before Gordon Brown rises to his feet. Marjorie Scardino, the chief executive of Pearson is presenting the awards at the end of the meal.

Eddie George is a hard man to keep out of a diary column these days. Tomorrow he will be turning up at the Cranfield School of Management, to receive an honorary MBA. Also up for an honour is Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways and president of the CBI.

Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Domex is not a man to duck a tough question. In his column On the Record in the group's house journal *Adventure* he is asked: "What effect would a single currency in Europe have on our business?" He replies: "Many issues have to be resolved before I can give you a detailed answer to that question." There you have it.

Clifford German

The Sunday Times publication survey shows that 100 firms running in the UK last year yesterday won a regular award on the Hill. Spectators are invited to the final round on 10 June.

All you need to know about the US Open was contained in a spectator's reply: "It's the greatest golf course in the world."

The US Open is reduced during winter when the tungsten links are laid. Andy North, the 11th champion, said: "I'm not sure how he came to win the Open. It's meant to be Augusta Woods, but he's broken more records. Victory will make him the first to win the Golden Bear, which is the 150th major. I hope his son Gary will follow him to win the title of the year."

Woods is also thinking about the Open. He's leading the race for the final round on 10 June.

Greg Wood

The Sunday Times publication survey shows that 100 firms running in the UK last year yesterday won a regular award on the Hill. Spectators are invited to the final round on 10 June.

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sport

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL: Brazilian defeat cannot mask the potential as coach counts up the pluses. Glenn Moore reports

Hoddle and England grow and prosper

Glenn Hoddle's first year as England coach ended, just as Terry Venables' debut season had, with defeat by Brazil. It was no disgrace. Brazil are the best around and, in the Parc des Princes on Tuesday night, there were times when England looked worthy opponents just as they had in the opening half at Wembley two summers ago.

Venables' team progressed considerably over the following year and went on to be within a penalty kick of the European Championship final. Hoddle, in building on Venables' progress, has created a side of greater potential but he faces a harder task. As well as the traditional European powers France '98 will have Brazil, probably Argentina, and the emerging force of Nigeria. England will also be away.

First, as Hoddle has always been anxious to stress, England have to qualify. "We are talking as if we are already there," he cautioned as England's efforts were dissected.

In his 11 games (nine wins, defeats by Italy and Brazil) Hoddle has called up 45 players, capping 29 of them, five (David Beckham, Andy Hinchcliffe, David James, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes) for the first time. Paul Ince and Gareth Southgate have appeared in 10 matches, no one has been ever-present. Darren Anderton, Steve Stone and Steve Howey have been unavailable almost all season and 11 of those have picked were injured for the Tournoi de France.

In their absence others have seized their chance, notably Scholes, Phil Neville, Rob Lee and, to an extent, Ian Wright. The Liverpool pair of Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler will be wondering if they will pay for their absence. Scholes and Phil Neville have been, with Sol Campbell, the major pluses of the Tournoi.



The England bench reflect on their only defeat in the Tournoi during the dying moments of Tuesday's 1-0 reverse against Brazil in Paris

Photograph: Michael Steele/Empics

"Scholes showed a lot of maturity while Phil Neville created and defended well playing in an unfamiliar wing-back position," Hoddle said. He added: "They have a great temperament and have adapted well to international football. Sol has grown as a player and he will get even better."

Gary Neville also did well, only looking uncomfortable when faced with Christophe Dugarry's height, while David Beckham continued his progress and will have learned much in terms of play and behaviour.

Then there was Ince, probably the outstanding player of

England's recent five-match period. "You do not realise what a player he is until you do not have him," Hoddle said. "There is not a player like him anywhere. He can drive forward and he can defend. Everyone has gone up a level but he has progressed even more."

Alan Shearer and David Sca-

man underlined their quality while Paul Gascoigne showed signs of his. "I was pleased with him," Hoddle added. "There are signs he is getting back to his best. He is not yet 100 per cent fit and he needs three to four injury-free months. He is maturing and can give you stature at the right time."

Hoddle recognised that England have to improve on the ball defensively and will be concerned about the lack of cover for Ince - David Batty is very much a poor substitute - and the continued absence of a natural sweeper.

Assuming England overcome Moldova at Wembley in Sep-

tember, qualification would be guaranteed by an October victory in Rome. A draw ought to be good enough as the best-performing second-placed team of the nine groups. England may even manage that in defeat but it would require some bad results by the likes of Yugoslavia, Belgium and whoever

ENGLAND'S RECORD UNDER HODDLE			
01.05.97	Match	at Chester, against Scotland	W
02.05.97	Match	at Birmingham, against Ireland	W
03.05.97	Poland	at Wembley, Shearer 2+	D
05.05.97	Georgia	at Wembley, Shearer 2+	W
12.05.97	Iceland	at Wembley, Shearer 2+	W
23.05.97	Mexico	at Wembley, Shearer 2+	W
30.05.97	Denmark	at Wembley, Shearer 2+	W
24.05.97	South Africa	(at Old Trafford, Lee, Wright)	W
31.05.97	Poland	(Chester, Shearer, Shearer 2+)	W
04.06.97	Italy	(at Wembley, Shearer, Wright)	W
07.06.97	France	(at Moncton, Shearer)	W
10.06.97	Brazil	(at Parc des Princes, Shearer)	L
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is second in Scotland's group. "The bottom line is qualifying – and then trying to win it. I know that," Hoddle said...

"The job looked worse on the outside, when I was at Chelsea. It looked a hell of a difficult job. It is, but I enjoy it and am taking a lot of pride in it. The ups are very high and the downs very low. I have a good family behind me and that is the most important thing. Winning in Poland was a great high, it may not be the best thing I've done – taking Swindon into the Premiership was a fantastic achievement at the time – but this is the nation. It means so much to so many people."



Demilson: One of Brazil's outstanding new talents

Australian

that

closer to Brazil but a persistent thought is that they are still some way short of realising their full potential.

The brilliant Brazilians still dancing to a different beat

When Glenn Hoddle spoke this week about narrowing the gap between English and Brazilian football some of us recalled a remark passed by Alf Ramsey on his return from the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Ramsey's rather clumsy assertion that he had learned little from Brazil's exhilarating triumph was ridiculed in some quarters but in fact he had hit the button. What he had in mind was a different philosophy and the unique rhythm of Brazilian football.

Considering that England's defeat by Brazil in Guadalajara was by the narrowest of margins and that Ramsey could call on such notables as Gordon Banks, Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters,

little separated them from the greatest of world champions. However, Ramsey was right to conclude that the exuberance of Brazil's football is beyond emulation.

A marked advancement in collective understanding over recent weeks has raised the possibility that England will be a force if they qualify for the World Cup finals next summer, but matching Brazil's technical brilliance is a different matter.

The late Joao Saldanha, a left-wing political activist in his youth, who was replaced by Mario Zagallo as Brazil's manager shortly before the 1970 finals for refusing to co-operate with secret service men assigned to the squad, said: "Our football is like our music. Suddenly changes of pace and nuance



England may yet become a force in next year's World Cup but Ken Jones says Glenn Hoddle's team still have a long way to go to match the technical ability of the world champions

that you don't get anywhere else in the world. Other countries have produced great players, great teams, but we play to a different beat."

It springs from history, the arrival of black slaves from West Africa in the 19th century, the subsequent merging of ethnic groups. Jose Werneck, who was widely respected in Brazil as a football pundit before moving to the United States, said, "I don't want to sound racist but the Afro-Brazilian footballers like the Afro-American athletes have a distinct advantage

in power. Pele was the best example. He had tremendous power in his thighs that enabled him to explode like a sprinter coming out of the blocks. And, as with poor people in other countries, football provides a means of escaping disenfranchisement. Some of our finest players have been white, German, Tostao, Dunga and now Juninho. But in the main they are black or of mixed origins, the mulattoes."

As Werneck points out, Brazilian football differs from that played in other South American

countries. "People often make the mistake of putting us together as a group as though there is a common style. It isn't so. For example, Argentina still favour a short passing style that was influenced by immigrants from Europe. Brazil play short and long. Didi and Gerson were marvellous passers through the air and you can see from the present team that Zagallo does not restrict the players in their options. And, as always, speed is a vital element."

Speaking after England's 1-0 loss to Brazil in Paris, the As-

ton Villa defender Gareth Southgate said that he had never come up against such quickness. Sol Campbell, who had an outstanding tournament, said: "One moment they are there, the next they have gone. You have to concentrate all the time."

Under pressure at home to expand on Brazil's victory in the 1994 finals, perhaps mellowing in his later years, Zagallo seems to be promoting a return to the verve that made Brazil's best football so compelling, what Pele called the beautiful game.

For a variety of reasons, political intrigue, economic crises and a misguided attempt to take European ideas on board (one of their coaches, Claudio Coutinho, an army officer and handball international stated admiration

for principles set out in a coaching manual written by a British football writer, Eric Batty, who had never played the game) that heritage was squandered following the 1970 triumph.

The appointment of Juninho's mentor, Tele Santana, almost brought about a return to old glories. But for the absence through injury of a marvellous centre-forward, Reinaldo, the team of Socrates, Zico, Falcao and Junior would have romped home in the 1982 finals.

The speed with which Brazil closed England down in Paris spoke of Zagallo's concern over recent defensive lapses, his fear that virtuosity could be undermined by defensive shortcomings. If it all comes together next summer, look out. It's fine for Hoddle to speak of getting

Small Fry

Bosnich turns goalscorer for Australians

The Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich relieved his boredom by scoring a late penalty as Australia opened their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 13-0 rout of the Solomon Islands yesterday.

Bosnich, who barely touched the ball during the ball during the match, stepped up to complete the scoring with the last kick of an embarrassingly one-sided Oceania group game. Strikers Damion Mori and John Aloisi had by then scored five goals each.

The victory gave Terry Venables his sixth win in as many matches since taking over as Australian national coach late last year. "We were particularly efficient and our attitude was very good," the former England coach said. "Even when we were several goals up, we didn't try to be too clever or take the mickey."

Rangers keep Laudrup

ADAM SZTEREY

Brian Laudrup, the Danish international striker, has decided to stay at Rangers at least until the end of next season after two days of talks with his chairman, David Murray, at his summer home in Jersey.

The 28-year-old striker's brother, Michael, was expected to join Ajax from the J-League club Kobe, and it was thought that if Michael was heading for Amsterdam then Brian would team up with him as they were keen to play together at club level.

The fact that the Scottish champions have already spent around £10m on new players was believed to have influenced his decision to stay.

Ajax's new manager, the former Danish international Morten Olsen, who was confident of bringing the brothers together, will be disappointed, as will the Manchester United man-

ager, Alex Ferguson, especially in his attempt to sign the Bayern Munich defender Markus Babbel is in doubt. Babbel turned down United's first offer, but Babbel's Swiss lawyers told United yesterday that the player will continue negotiations.

Chelsea have signed the Dutch international goalkeeper Ed De Goey from Feyenoord for £2.25m on a five-year contract. Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, checked out his 30-year-old former Feyenoord team-mate in South Africa last week when the Netherlands won a friendly international 2-0.

"This is a dream move," said De Goey, who has won 29 international caps. "Several Dutch and Spanish clubs have shown an interest in me but when I knew Ruud wanted me there was only one club for me – Chelsea. The prospect of playing in England with a big club like Chelsea really excites me."

Portsmouth are believed to be tying up a move for the trio, for a fee in the region of £1m, with defender Matthew Bingley also having been targeted. However, several clubs in Australia expressed their outrage that Venables was linked to the transfers, with draft letters of complaint filed to the Soccer Australia board alleging conflict of interest.

Hill said: "Terry Venables has done nothing that contravenes our rules or the contract we entered into with him."

Venables had sent videotapes of Sydney United's Kalac and Enes and West Adelaide's Thorp to the Portsmouth manager, Terry Fenwick, to study.

Everton tempt Sacchi

ALAN NIXON

Everton are switching their search for a manager to Milan's Arrigo Sacchi. The Goodison chairman, Peter Johnson, has made a discreet approach to the experienced coach, who took Italy to the World Cup final three years ago.

Sacchi, who still has a year left on his contract, has had a nightmare return to Milan this season and is expected to make way for Fabio Capello, who is leaving Real Madrid soon. The chance to move to Everton with millions to spend may appeal as his reputation is at an all-time low in Italy, where he walked out as the national manager to go back to Milan.

Johnson is coming under fire for his failure to replace Joe Royle. Bobby Robson has stalled about joining, George Graham will not quit Leeds, both Bryan Robson and Martin O'Neill shied away and a move for the relegated German side St Pauli.

Blackburn's new manager, Roy Hodgson, is making France's Patrick Valery his first signing for Blackburn Rovers. The Bastia right-back flew to Ewood Park yesterday for contract talks and a medical. Valery has had an outstanding season for the Corsican side, and Hodgson spotted him during his time in charge at Internazionale.

Graham is poised to make three major foreign signings for Leeds. The Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink arrives today to complete a £2m move from Bovista, days after his successful farewell appearance in the Portuguese Cup final.

Norway's midfielder Alf Inge Halldal will also join Leeds today to sort out a fee with Nottingham Forest. And his fellow Norwegian Tore Pedersen is expected to arrive after the weekend. The centre-back is poised for a £1m move from the relegated German side St Pauli.

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Busy Rusedski must raise game

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Queen's Club

You never know what to expect on grass. Goran Ivanisevic mused. A trio of Brits in the third round of the Stella Artois Championships, for example, one of whom, the 19-year-old Martin Lee, is due to face the whimsical Croat today.

Michael Chang knows what to expect on the sport's fastest surface, and in his case it does not amount to a lot. The world No 2, paying his first visit to the laws of Queen's Club, was eliminated in his opening match by Scott Draper, the talented Australian left-hander.

Draper now plays Greg Rusedski, who will need to raise his game after surviving a nervous afternoon against Kevin Ullyett, a South African qualifier, ranked No 174. Then there is Tim Henman, the British No

1, who must overcome the challenge of Jens Knippschild, of Germany, ranked No 105. Knippschild has advanced at the expense of one of last year's Wimbledon semi-finalists, Jason Stoltenberg, and the Frenchman Olivier Delaite, who curtailed Henman's trip to the French Open in round one.

Rusedski, it must be admitted, did reach the third round here in 1994, but in those days he was still pounding his serves as a Canadian. Yesterday, he appeared to have squandered his opportunity after failing to convert any of three match points at 5-4 in the third set.

Ullyett, having forced a tie-break, created two match points of his own. Rusedski served away the first, at 5-6, only to double-fault to present his opponent with another opportunity at 6-7. This time Rusedski salvaged the match with an emphatic backhand cross-court service return and clinched the

shoot-out, 9-7, on his fourth match point, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6.

To be fair, Rusedski had a busy day, having first completed his first-round match against Australia's Mark Woodforde, which had been suspended overnight because of rain at one set all and 1-1. Rusedski completed the task, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Draper required five match points in defeating Chang, who fought back after losing the opening set and actually had a match point in the third set tie-break. Draper saved it and was relieved to see Chang loop a forehand long at 6-7 to lose the match, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6.

The question now is whether the three Brits can emulate Chris Bailey (1989) and Jeremy Bates (1994), the only two home representatives to have advanced to the quarter-finals.

Lee, who wears yellow and blue outfits similar to the ones in which Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten triumphed at the French Open, must hope to catch Ivanisevic on one of his more eccentric days.

After defeating Leander Paes, of India, yesterday, 7-6, 6-3, Ivanisevic revealed that he did not finally decide to play until an hour before the match because of a wrist injury. "I hope it doesn't get any worse," he said.

His thoughts on playing Lee? "I know who he is, but I never saw him play," Ivanisevic said. "I don't talk about playing British players. I lost to [Chris] Brown at Wimbledon." Not to mention saving a match point against Chris Bailey with an ace on a second serve.

Pete Sampras seemed pleased to set his feet on grass after failing again to dominate on the clay of Paris. The world No 1 defeated Javier Frana, of Argentina, 6-3, 6-2 in less than an hour, in his opening match.

"It's like I never left after last year," Sampras said. "I got used to the court and the balls on Monday, when I played doubles [with Henman]. I'm happy with the way I played today, and I have no complaints."

Ivanisevic couldn't have done anything more," Smith said. "When she had chances she was able to put big serves in. I wasn't able to raise my game when I needed it."

For Atli it was the first experience of taking on a top-100 player. Van Roos was the world No 28 at the start of the week.

The Devon player was pleased to find that her level – around the 200 mark – was not too far away from the higher standard.

"I didn't really know what to expect," she said. "I was pleased to go out there and compete with her."

It was also Ahl's first time competing in the main draw of a WTA Tour event. On Tuesday she won her first-round match 6-4, 6-4 against Claire Taylor of Oxford. "It's great to get through the first round and to gain confidence to play like Van Roos," she said.

Obviously I'm disappointed with the result but she played some unbelievable points and I

wasn't able to do much about it," said Smith.

Smith, the British No 1 from Essex, was first to go, losing 7-6, 6-4 to third-seed Lisa Raymond of the United States.

Ahl put up a strong fight but the experience of Dominique van Roos, the sixth seed, proved too much and the Belgian won 7-5, 6-2.

Smith went very close to pulling off a surprise when she had four set points in the first set and led 4-2 in the second, but Raymond, who reached the fourth round of the French Open, applied pressure at crucial times to clinch victory.

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Tiger's major assault
Andy Farrell looks at the field for golf's US Open, page 29

sport

England coming of age
Glenn Moore on the potential of Hoddle's side, page 30



Hammam sells up without moving out



Football

PHIL SHAW

Q: When is the buy-out of a football club not a buy-out? A: When Sam Hammam is doing the selling.

Hammam, the Lebanese owner of Wimbledon, confirmed yesterday that he was relinquishing his majority shareholding in the Premiership club to two Norwegian businessmen for £26m. And he intimated that the new investors would probably bankroll the building of a stadium in south-west London.

Yet within hours of appearing to step out of the front line, Hammam announced that the

Oslo-based fishing magnate, Kjell Inge Røkke, and his business partner, Bjørn Rune Gjelsten, had agreed to leave him "in complete charge" of all "key decisions". He would carry on as managing director and run Wimbledon much as he had done for two decades.

The football world has come

to expect the unexpected from Wimbledon and Hammam. A fierce defender of the "Crazy Gang" spirit, he claimed he chose Røkke and Gjelsten precisely because they understood the unique nature and traditions of the club.

The Norwegians, who lost out to the Caspian Group in an attempted takeover of Leeds

United last summer, began their friendship at school. Røkke dropped out and began working on a fishing boat, eventually saving enough money to buy first a boat and eventually one of the world's biggest fleets; Gjelsten went on to complete a business degree in Colorado.

Pooling Røkke's entrepreneurial flair and Gjelsten's financial nous, the pair took over one of Scandinavia's leading holding companies before forming the Aker RGI ASA group in 1982. They also hold the controlling interest in Molde, who developed Ole Gunnar Solskjær before transferring him to Manchester United, and have already intimated that the Nor-

wegian club could be used to develop players for Wimbledon.

For Hammam, who has failed to persuade Merton council to pay for a new ground since the club vacated Plough Lane for a ground-share at Crystal Palace, the deal offers the prospect of Wimbledon returning to their spiritual home. "We have no definite plans," he admitted. "All we know is that we probably will move. Selhurst Park is a good stadium, but if we want to be among the biggest then we need our own ground."

Amid a maelstrom of metaphors, Hammam insisted that Røkke (whom he likened to Clark Kent: "No one knows that he is Superman") and Gjel-

sten were not actually taking control. "I'm not selling out. I'll be in complete charge of all key decisions. I am the steering wheel. My foot is on the accelerator and the brake."

"All we have at this stage is an engagement to get married, and it will be at least a few months before the marriage is consummated. I'll be delighted to call them my partners in the future, but we're not looking at them as sugar daddies."

Seemingly contradicting himself, he added: "Money is available, though it's embarrassing to say how much. The only thing that matters is that it's profitable to Wimbledon."

"The way I see football go-

ing is that you need to have a lot of money to survive. If we want to continue to progress then we need these people. We need to be ready for things like pay-per-view and the European League, which will be here in a few years."

Hammam, who said he had picked the pair after talking to "some of the most influential people in the world", also spoke of making Wimbledon "one of the biggest clubs in Europe". But alluding to Fabrizio Ravanelli's reputed earnings at Middlesbrough, he warned: "We'll still do things the Wimbledon way. There'll be no figures of £42,000 a-week at this club."

The deal marks another re-

markable chapter in the story of the club who began life 108 years ago as Old Centrals FC, playing in the shadow of the windmill on Wimbledon Common. Initially members of the Clapham League, they might never have turned professional but for Clacton's withdrawal creating a vacancy in the Southern League 34 years ago. Wimbledon went on to replace Workington in the Fourth Division in 1977, reaching what is now the Premiership within nine years and winning the FA Cup in 1988. Now, having established themselves among the big fish in playing terms, they appear to have landed the financial clout to move into uncharted waters.

Hammam: Still 'in complete charge of all key decisions'

Bentley try puts Lions in fast lane

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT
reports from Johannesburg
Gauteng 14
British Isles 20

John Bentley, his Test place in jeopardy after a flawed performance in Pretoria last weekend, scored one of the great individual tries in Lions history at Ellis Park last night to give the tourists their first victory over a Super 12 Province.

The former rugby league wing left five Gauteng tacklers for dead, and coming as it did just seven minutes after Austin Healey's superb opening try, it ripped the game from the South Africans' grasp in the most dramatic fashion imaginable.

Bentley struck on 67 minutes, picking up the ball fully 60 metres out, beating two tackles on the wide right before curving inside and giving three more defenders the slip before finishing off under the post. Gauteng breathed fire in the final ten but with the Lions' back row of Tim Rodber, Rob Wainwright and Neil Back giving everything in defence, they were restricted to an injury time try by Andre Vos, their blind side flanker.

Dawie du Toit made an embarrassing foul-up of his first penalty shot after Tim Rodber and Neil Back killed the ball on the floor but made no mistake after five minutes when John Bentley was caught well offside near his own posts.

Mike Catt squared it almost immediately from distance but the Lions were still under the cosh – and in more



Break-out: Rob Wainwright, of the Lions, strides away from Gauteng's Johan Roux at Ellis Park last night

Photograph: Alex Livesey/Allsport

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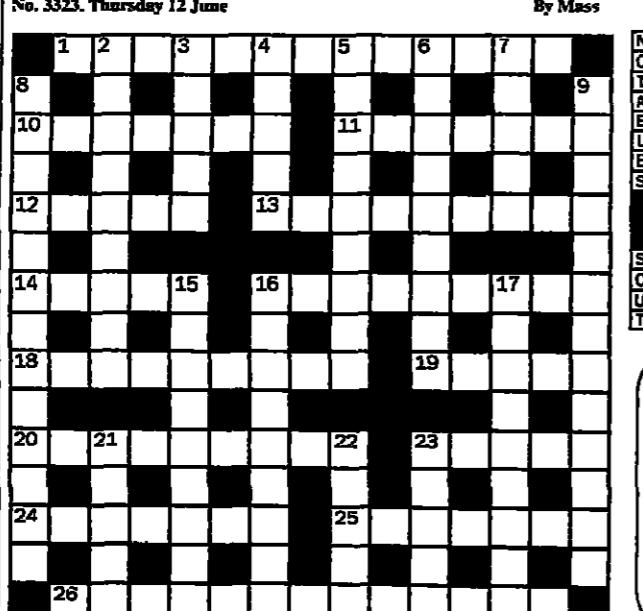
J. Roux, R. Grau, C. Rossouw, J. Dalton, S2, K. van Graan, K. Westwood, B. Horne, A. Vos, N. Best, T. du Toit, J. Hendrikse, J. Gossart, J. Bentley (Newcastle and England), W. Greenwood (Leicester), M. Underwood (Bath and England), M. Green (Cardiff and England), A. Healey (Leicester and England); T. Smith (Worcester and Scotland), B. Smith (Richmond and Wales), P. Walliams (London), D. du Toit (Bath), J. Hendrikse (Bath and England), J. Davidson (London Welsh and Scotland), T. Rodber (Northampton and England), R. Wainwright (Bath and England), R. Wallwright (Worcester and Scotland), T. Rees (Northampton and England), R. Wainwright (Bath and England), R. Wallwright (Worcester and Scotland). Replacements: N. Jenkins (Pontypridd and Wales) for Underwood. S. Reference: T. Hennessy (Northern Transvaal).

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3323. Thursday 12 June

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



ACROSS

- 1 The French diminutive chap's wearing deerer jumper (13)
- 10 Identify gun in Eastern boat (7)
- 11 Mark or Judas? (7)
- 12 Writer's rolling in drink and bumbling (5)
- 13 Just dishes? (3-4)
- 14 Man from stern of the smack can be heard (5)
- 16 Earthquake factor. Large-scale measure? Half tremor (9)
- 18 It is a rule possibly to promote routine (9)
- 19 Dance with a medico in S. America (5)
- 20 The fling I arranged as clubland entertainment (9)

DOWN

- 2 Former paintings put up as collateral (5)
- 8 Water rate remained unstable around North? (13)
- 9 Questioned, divorcee during trial raised material article (5-8)
- 15 Gather, take in rough floor cover (6-3)
- 16 Knock out songster entered among the best (9)
- 17 Paddy downed mild (9)
- 21 Blow top of omelette, then taste (5)
- 22 English bachelor in cheap joint (5)
- 23 Leaves out with sprinkling of blossom, it seems (5)

Graf's career in doubt

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS

"I feel I'm in seventh heaven," was how Steffi Graf summarised her Wimbledon triumph last year. Now the valedictory articles are being prepared. And not for the first time.

The great German athlete's career is under threat again following further surgery, on this occasion to repair her left knee five days before her 28th birthday on Saturday.

Rehabilitation is expected to take six months and Graf's Austrian surgeon, Reinhard Weintraub, has expressed a doubt that the seven-times Wimbledon champion will be able to compete again at the highest level.

Graf, a perfectionist, is unlikely to settle for less than the highest level, even though it will be a difficult decision. She does not have a clear idea what to do with her life after tennis and a hefty slice of her fortune has been lost as a result of her father/manager, Peter's, problems with the German tax authorities.

the sport which I love so much – and in good health."

Weintraub, unfortunately, was less certain. "That is certainly an aim," he said. "Whether that aim can be reached one cannot say now."

The German Olympic team and tennis federation doctor, Joseph Keul, had supportive words for Graf. "It is a sign of wear and tear that, however, by no means has to mean the end of a career," he said. "I think that Steffi Graf will be 100 per cent again by the end of the year."

Graf, a perfectionist, is unlikely to settle for less than the highest level, even though it will be a difficult decision. She does not have a clear idea what to do with her life after tennis and a hefty slice of her fortune has been lost as a result of her father/manager, Peter's, problems with the German tax authorities.

Currently ranked No 3 in the world, her lowest position for a decade, Graf finds herself caught in the incoming tide of a new generation. Martina Hingis has supplanted her as the No 1. Iva Majoli has won the French Open, and Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams are in the process of cutting their teeth.

This would be hard enough for Graf to deal with if she were fit and confident, but there have been signs that her opponents no longer fear her. 21 Grand Slam titles or not.

At least she will be in good hands. The Gars am Kamp centre has been used by numerous sportsmen and women – the former Formula One racing champion Niki Lauda recuperated there from severe burns suffered in a crash in Germany and returned there recently following a kidney transplant.

Official warning for Villeneuve

Motor racing

Jacques Villeneuve, the Formula One World championship leader who is tipped to lift the title this season, received a warning from the sport's governing body yesterday for criticising planned regulation changes.

After appearing before the world council of the FIA, the world governing body of the sport, in Imola last April by insisting that the changes for 1998, involving the use of grooved tyres and narrower cars, were "ridiculous".

On the eve of the opening day's practice for the San Marino Grand Prix, Villeneuve said: "These new regulations are just a joke. To run on these tyres is just ridiculous. It takes all the

precision out of the driving and the racing – as well as the fun – and it is just a ridiculous idea."

The Canadian, who will be driving in his home grand prix on Sunday, created uproar in the paddock at Imola last April by insisting that the changes for 1998, involving the use of grooved tyres and narrower cars, were "ridiculous".

Mosley said in Monaco last month that the changes would stand, having been proposed by the team's engineers, agreed unanimously, and passed by the FIA's world council.

How many balls do you need to make a fortune on the lottery?

Two extremely large ones.



Also this week, the world's leading bookmakers in England. Plus the man who took his son's valuable car to a repair shop. He said when he got it back, it was a laughing stock.

McKittrick and Corcoran

Just an

and

bulger ruling

the day Michael Howard

the minimum jail

of the two bulges

bulger